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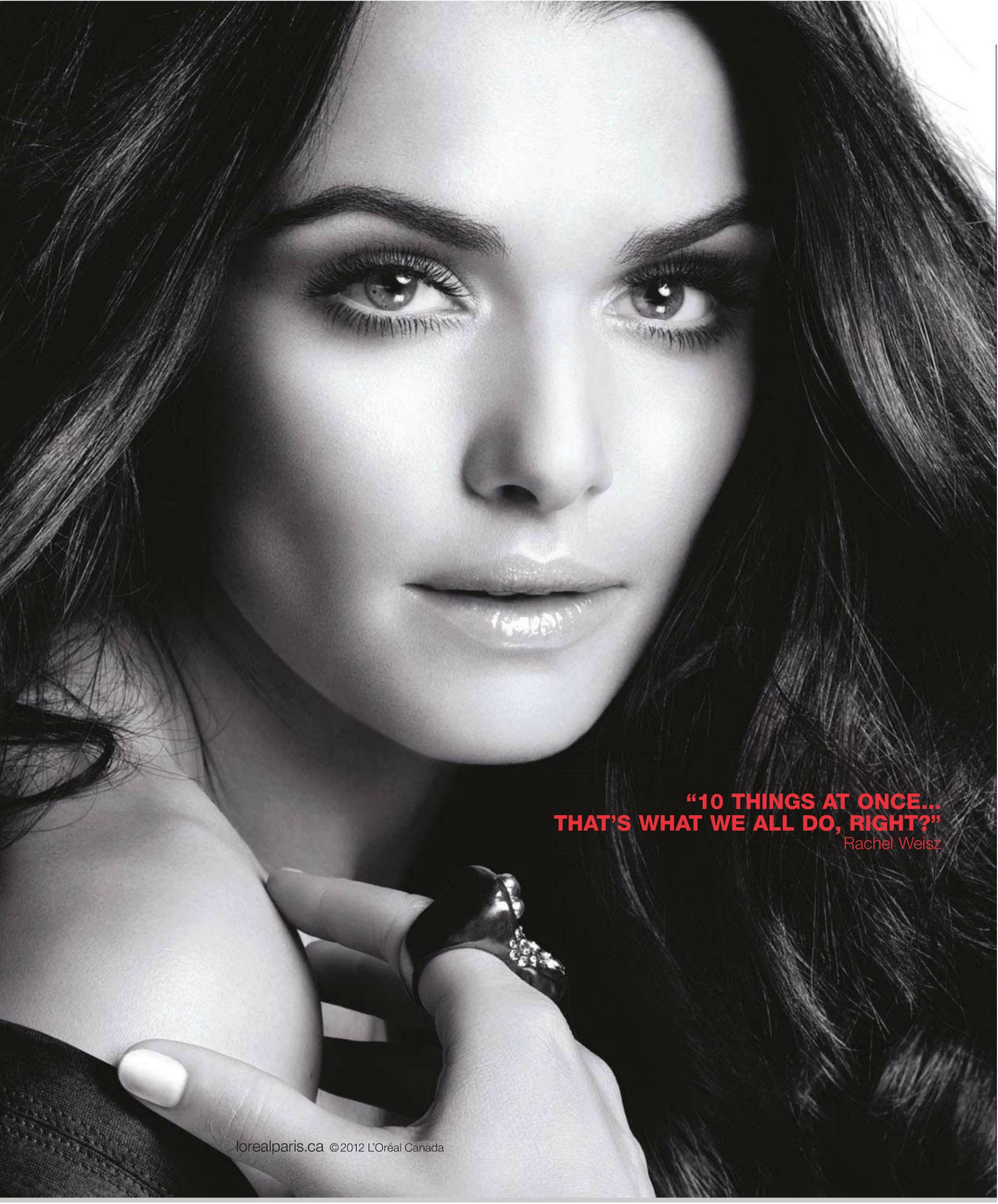
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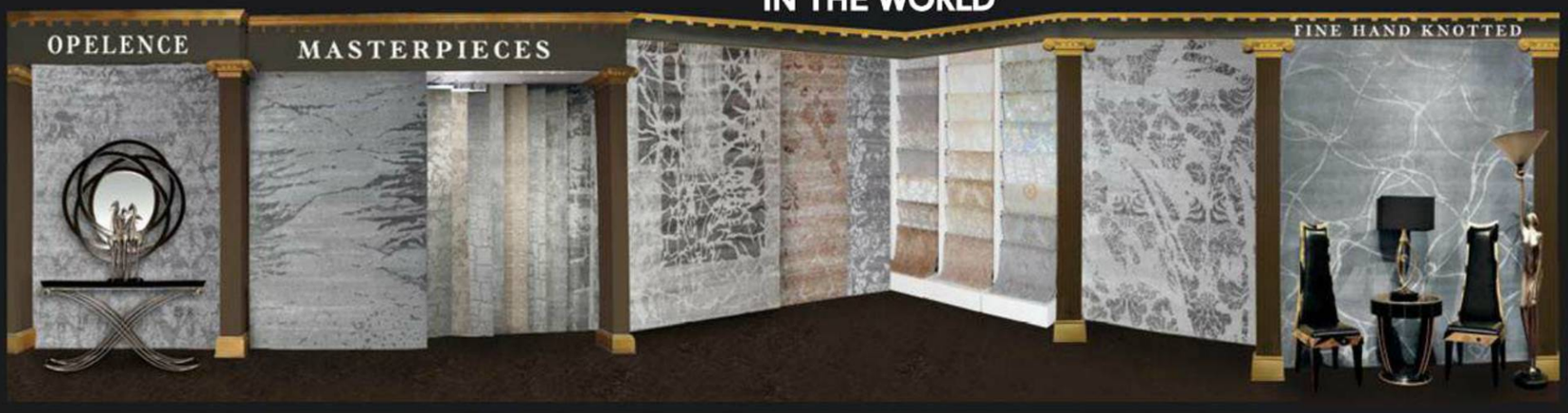

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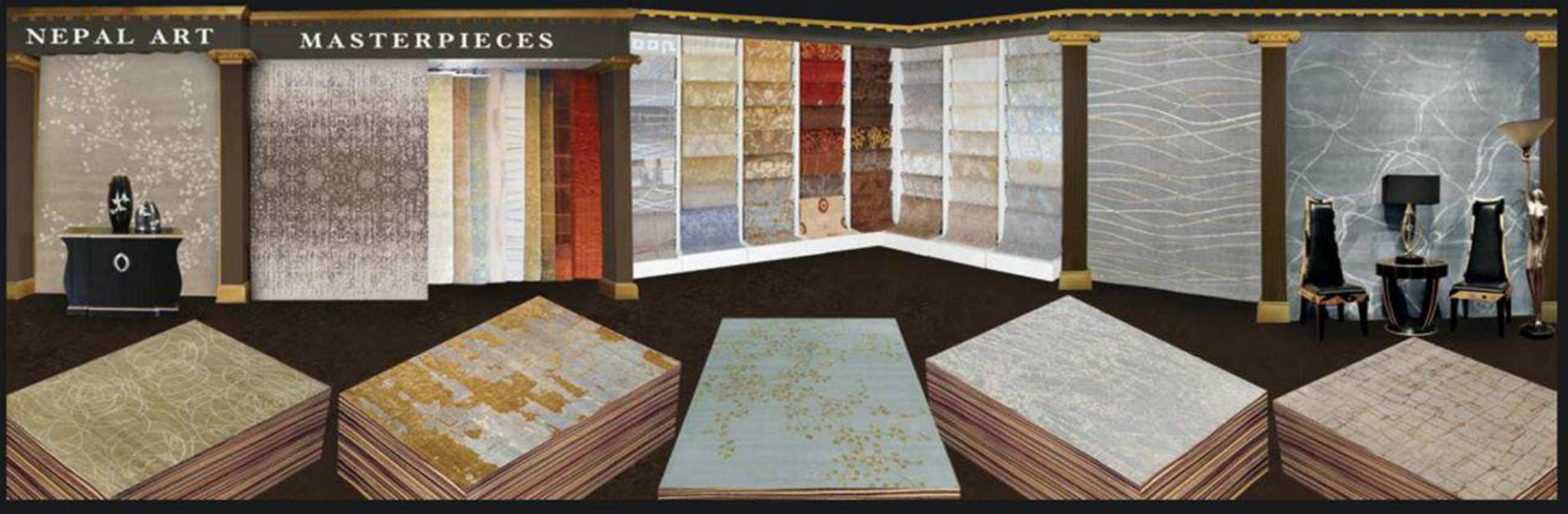

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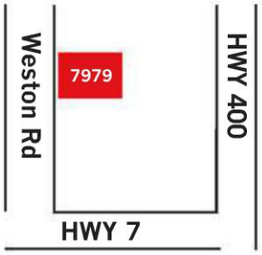

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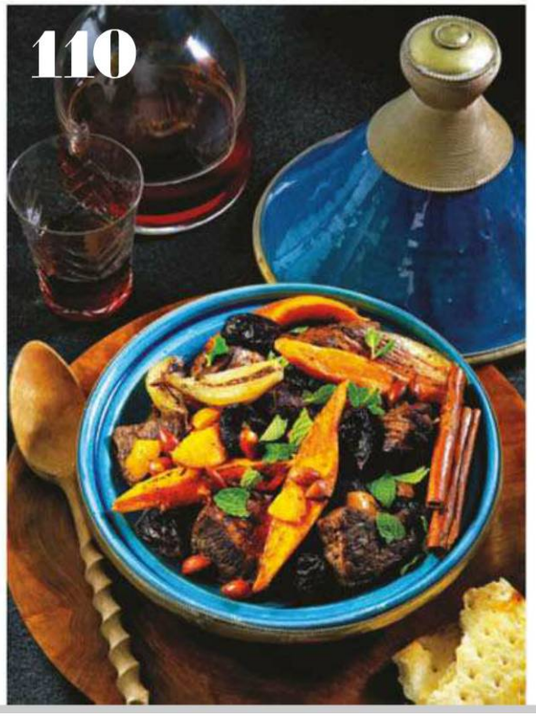

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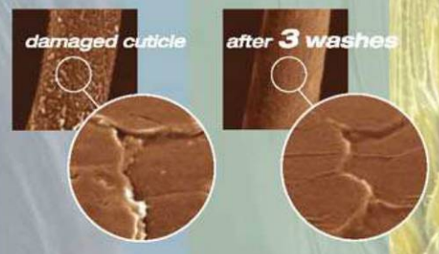

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When I think of how to describe the perfect small space – one of the themes of this issue – the expression "refined beauty" comes to mind. In tiny rooms, decor needs to be intelligent, functional and, perhaps most importantly, personal. To me, it's an edited combination of modern and traditional elements that makes a small space work seamlessly.

Design icon Barbara Barry, who's profiled in our Inside Design column this month (page 56), is, quite simply, the personification of refined beauty. Her inherent vision of pared-back elegance seems as effortlessly beautiful as she is herself. When mixed with her contemporary aesthetic, the results are luxurious, serene interiors that never seem to age.

Many of Barbara's trademark design elements are well suited to decorating for small spaces. Her use of pale colours, subtle patterns and furnishings with delicate silhouettes all work perfectly in a diminutive setting.

Successfully decorating these challenging interiors is also about maximizing square footage, giving the area a real purpose (or two) and realizing its full potential. Organization, another theme of this issue, is key. A great example of bringing your rooms to order is found in our High or Low column (see page 48). Stylist Andrea McCrindle shows us how to mix multiple pieces in both traditional and modern styles to create a multi-purpose room – a library, sitting room and home office all in one. There are other examples of reinventing spaces, too. Our senior editor, Catherine Therrien, who's known for her careful, considered approach to everything, took her badly outfitted walk-in closet and created a sophisticated his-and-hers dressing room (see "Behind Closet Doors," page 60). The closet is so well thought out that there's even a special spot for her Yorkshire terrier, Chloe!

When designing or decorating your own small space, the pages of this issue will serve as inspiration. And for those of you who've come up with brilliant small-space decor ideas and solutions of your own, I'd love to hear from you.

Erin

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HIGH ON **DIY**

I was pleasantly surprised to see the story "Starting From Scratch" in the February 2012 issue (page 74). The homeowners did a great job on their home and the interior rivals many of those on your pages from professional designers. I'd love to see more stories like this from you in the future. I think it's especially inspiring for the average homeowner to see accessible and modest homes cleverly renovated and decorated by regular people.

JENNIFER KURTZ-DUNHAM, Newmarket, Ont.

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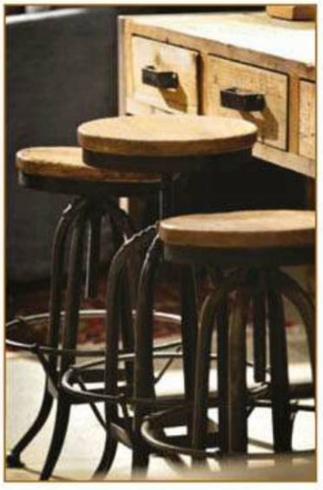

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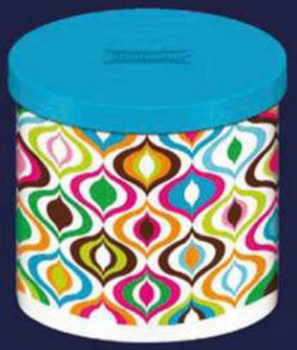

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PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH, MICHAEL GRAYDON, VIRGINIA MACDONALD

online this month

styleathome.com

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This month, you could win a Hamilton Beach Canada breakfast prize pack to start your morning off right! Brew an individual cup or a full pot of coffee with the Scoop Two-Way Brewer or enjoy a nutritious smoothie with the WaveMaker. Then, use the Flip Waffle Maker to create fluffy waffles.

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VIVIANNE "THE TRENDSETTER"
Is obsessed with the best and insists Cottonelle® is the "it" roll to have this season.
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"I LOVE IT,
AND MY LIPS DO TOO."
Doutzen Kroes
lorealparis.ca ©2012 L'Oréal Canada
Doutzen is wearing Colour Riche Balm™ in Pink Satin (118).

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stylenews

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations. **PRODUCER** JESSICA WAKS

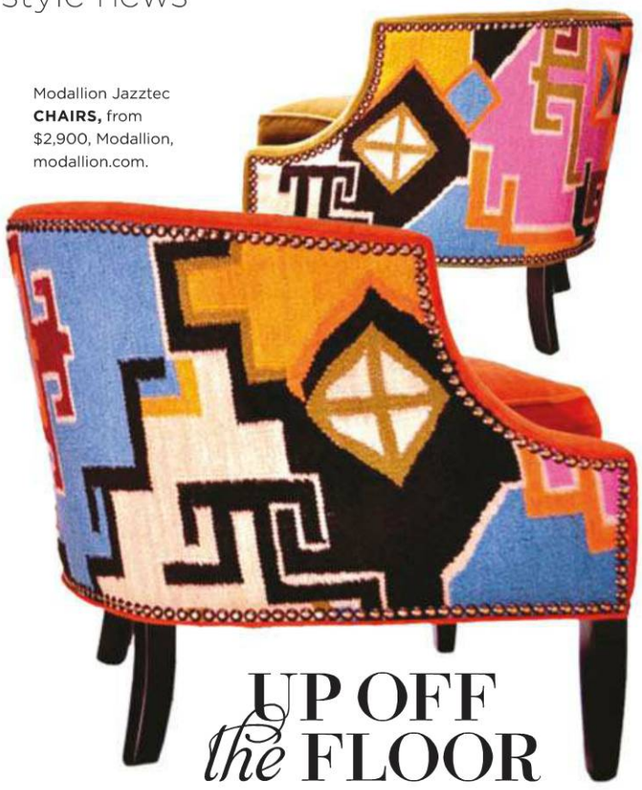
dressed to thrill

For this issue's project of the month, senior editor Catherine Therrien fabricates a simple shoe organizer that exudes romance and charm. All that's required is an expanse of wall (we papered ours in a subtle stripe) and a few pieces of lightweight cornice spaced about two feet apart. Adhere to the wall using some nails and a hammer. It'll make finding shoes in the morning a little easier and a lot more fun.

Stripe BC1581052 **WALLPAPER,** Blue Mountain Wallcoverings, blmtn.com; Egg & Dart **CORNICE,** 4 3/16", The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

For more ways to organize clothing and accessories in your bedroom, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/WARDROBEORGANIZATION.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN



Modallion Jazztec **CHAIRS,** from $2,900, Modallion, modallion.com.

UP OFF *the* FLOOR

MODALLION, REZNICK CARPETS'S MODERN RUG STUDIO, HAS TEAMED UP WITH BARRYMORE FURNITURE TO CREATE SHOW-STOPPING CHAIRS. THEIR BACKS ARE UPHOLSTERED IN COLOURFUL KILIM RUGS, RESULTING IN ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS THAT ARE STILL COMFY TO SIT ON.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

Layers of washed organic cotton bedding featuring playful ikat prints in tones of strawberry and oat make for a deliciously inviting bedroom that'll have you pining for breakfast in bed.

Eileen Fisher Collection **PILLOW COVERS,** from $78 US, Printed Organic Cotton **QUILT & SHAMS** in Hazelwood, from $48 US, and Washed Organic Cotton Percale **BEDDING** in Oat, from $70 US, Garnet Hill, garnethill.com.

around and around

Two different sizes and six varied finishes – from subtle ash to vibrant yellow – make these Danish-designed tables the definition of versatile.

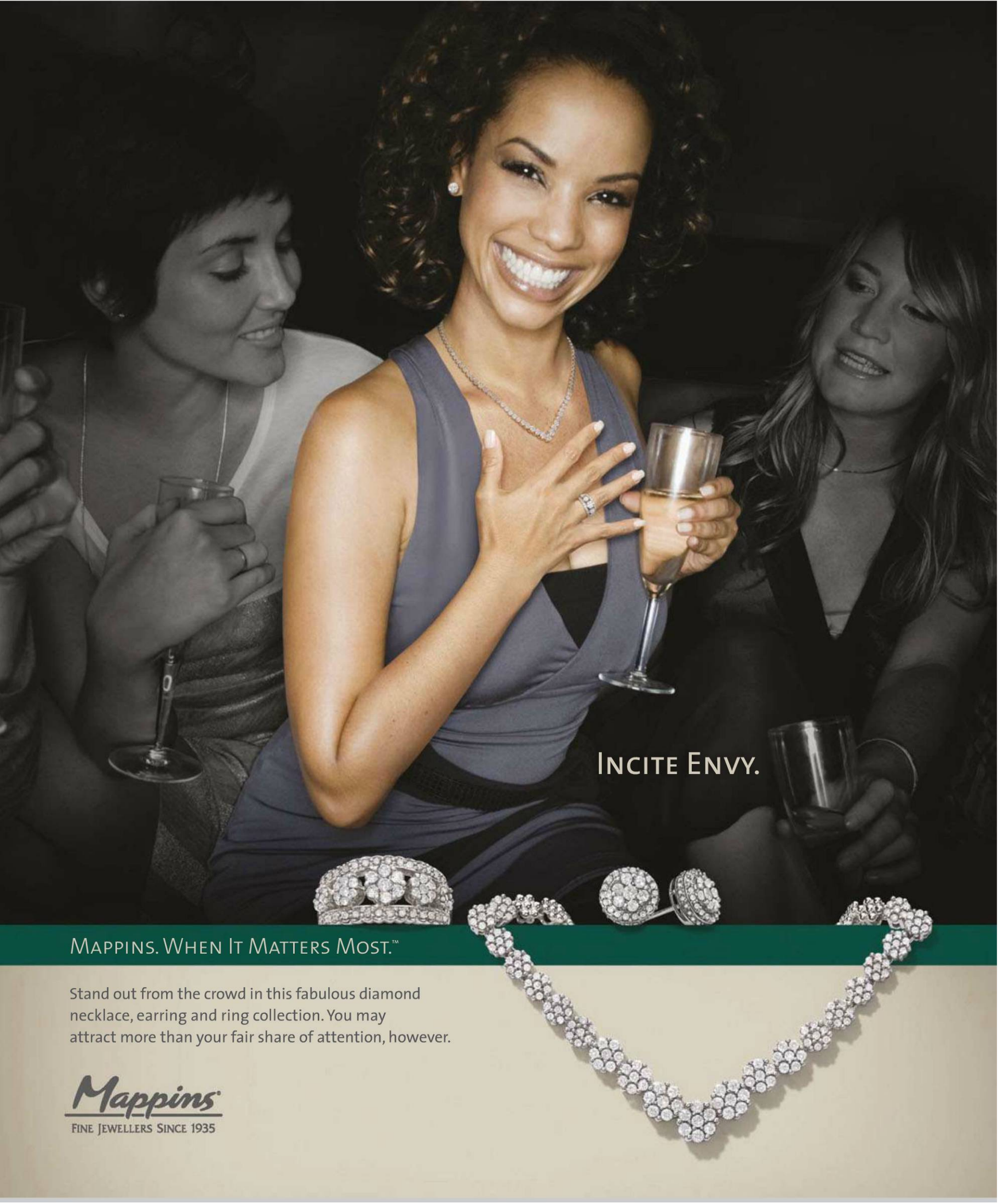
perfect for small spaces
CLUSTER A FEW TOGETHER IN A GROUP OR USE ONE ON ITS OWN TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS.

Muuto Around **COFFEE TABLES** by Thomas Benzen, $499 (small), $699 (large), Torp, torpinc.com.

Custom fibreglass **GARDEN DOOR** with wrought-iron Victorian insert, Home Decor Window & Door Centre, homedecorwindowsanddoors.com.

TIP

DESIGNER SECRET LIGHT MAKES SPACES FEEL BIGGER AND MORE OPEN, SO ENLARGE A CRAMPED FOYER WITH A GLASS DOOR EMBELLISHED WITH BEAUTIFUL IRONWORK FOR AN ADDED DECORATIVE TOUCH.



Mappins. When It Matters Most.™

Stand out from the crowd in this fabulous diamond necklace, earring and ring collection. You may attract more than your fair share of attention, however.

Mappins
Fine Jewellers Since 1935

express yourself

When you're tight on space, this sculptural oil diffuser not only serves as an *objet d'art* but also emits long-lasting fragrance in three different scent options.

Glade Expressions **OIL DIFFUSER** in Bamboo, $9, Glade, glade.ca.

powder-room perfect

SLEEK SILHOUETTES IN MATTE BLACK AND CHROME FINISHES MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL SPACE.

HIGH-FASHION FIXTURES

CHANNEL THE TRADEMARK FLAIR OF MANHATTAN-BASED FASHION DESIGNER JASON WU – A FAVOURITE OF MRS. OBAMA AND STARLETS ALIKE – INTO YOUR BATHROOM WITH HIS CAPSULE COLLECTION FOR BRIZO, AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER.

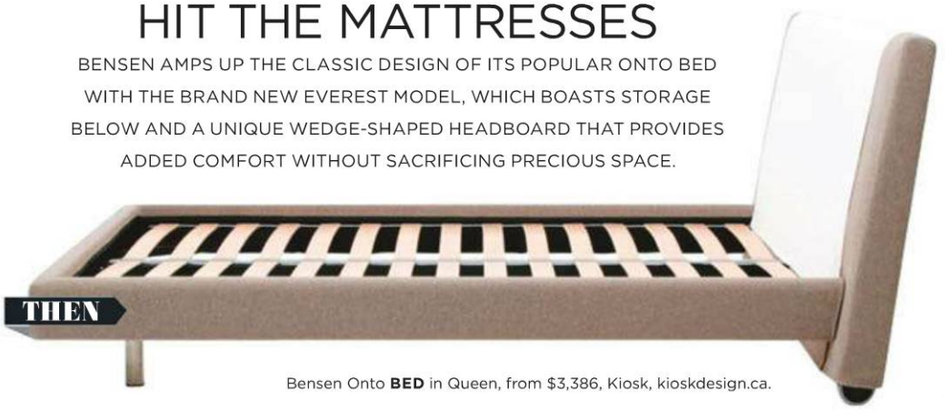
Jason Wu for Brizo **LAVATORY FAUCET,** $950, and **SOAP DISH,** $120, Brizo, brizo.com.

Bensen Everest **BED** in Queen, from $3,710, Kiosk, kioskdesign.ca.

NOW

HIT THE MATTRESSES

BENSEN AMPS UP THE CLASSIC DESIGN OF ITS POPULAR ONTO BED WITH THE BRAND NEW EVEREST MODEL, WHICH BOASTS STORAGE BELOW AND A UNIQUE WEDGE-SHAPED HEADBOARD THAT PROVIDES ADDED COMFORT WITHOUT SACRIFICING PRECIOUS SPACE.



THEN

Bensen Onto **BED** in Queen, from $3,386, Kiosk, kioskdesign.ca.

in the SPOTLIGHT

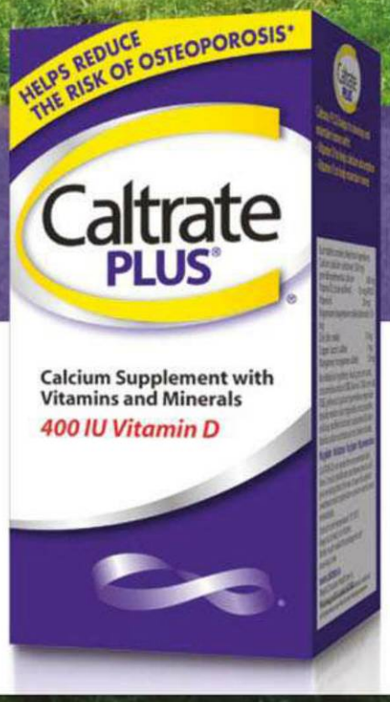
Piani, a petite table lamp from Flos, does double duty as a catch-all for your office odds and ends.

Flos Piani **TABLE LAMP** in White, $330, Gabriel Ross, gabrielross.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (TABLE LAMP); GETTY IMAGES/CHRIS MOORE (RUNWAY)

FOR MORE UNIQUE FINDS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

It shouldn't be a chore to get what you need for healthy bones.



As we get older our bones begin to lose calcium, which can have serious consequences. That's why one in four women develop osteoporosis. Doctors recommend Caltrate Plus. It is uniquely formulated with 600 mg of calcium and 400 IU of vitamin D, plus other ingredients like magnesium and manganese, to keep your bones strong and prevent osteoporosis.

It's never too early or too late for Caltrate.®

Be sure this product is right for you. Read and follow the label.

caltrate.ca

pattern play: bold and beautiful

In small spaces, pretty patterned rugs become art for the floor.

love this rug?
BUY YOUR OWN DIRECTLY FROM KORHANI HOME AT KORHANI.COM.

Scorching Hot P5078-73 **PAINT**, Para Paints, para.com.

Oxford Gray 2128-40 **PAINT**, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Beauti-Tone Venetian Style 6G1-6 **PAINT**, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.

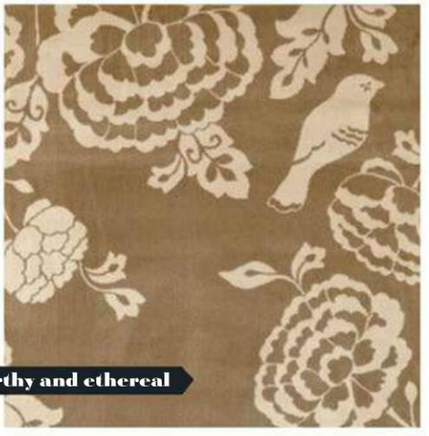
TIP

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

This living room captures the versatility of these rugs, featuring neutral hues that work with almost any colour palette.

rugs for charity
A PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS FROM OUR RUG SALES GO TO CHARITY.

Don't miss your last chance to pick up the perfect decor element for your small space – the *Style at Home* rugs editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin designed with Korhani Home. When you have limited square footage, each piece needs to be truly special, so choose a statement rug that will add a jolt of pattern to your space and rep your signature style.



earthy and ethereal

global and glamorous

Dalila **RUG** in Taupe and Ivory (top) and Emmeline **RUG** in Silver and Ivory, 5'3" x 7'5", $120 each, Korhani Home, korhani.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: VIRGINIA MACDONALD (INTERIOR); RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (RUGS, PORTRAIT)

To learn more about Korhani Home, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/KORHANI.**

EXPLORE 15 WAYS TO SATISFY YOUR PASSION FOR COFFEE

NESCAFÉ® Dolce Gusto® is designed to create a range of delicious coffees and speciality beverages in less than a minute. From smooth, full-bodied house blends to creamy cappuccinos, lattes and more, seducing your tastebuds with exceptional coffee has never been easier.

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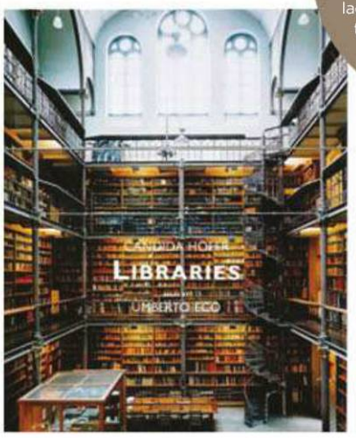
DISCOVER MORE AT DOLCE-GUSTO.CA

NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto

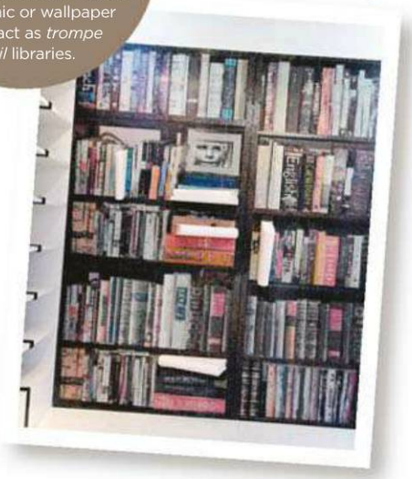
UNIQUE WALL TREATMENTS

Do you long for the look of floor-to-ceiling bookcases but lack the collection? A glass tile mosaic or wallpaper mural act as *trompe l'oeil* libraries.



OUR INSPIRATION

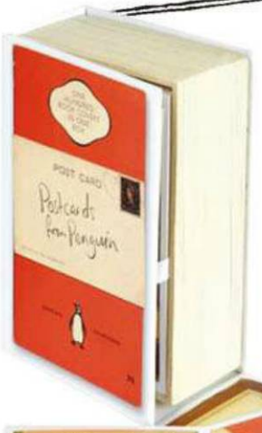
Candida Höfer's remarkable photography in the book *Libraries* (Schirmer/Mosel) includes beauties like the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Villa Medici in Rome. Like a fine wine, these libraries just get better with age.



THE **trend** IS

bibliostyle

The style set is hitting the books with a trend that embraces both old and new. With their time-worn charm, these vintage-inspired library essentials are perfect for a cozy reading nook.



- *Libraries* **BOOK** by Candida Höfer, $78, Amazon, amazon.ca.
- Mosaico+ Vetrina Collection **MOSAIC TILES,** $40 per 1.15 sq. ft. piece, Ciot, ciot.com.
- Genuine Fake Bookshelf **WALLPAPER,** $293 per 11′ drop, Deborah Bowness, deborahbowness.com.
- Antique brass Library **TASK LAMP,** $229 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.
- **LIBRARY CARD,** $8 US per pack of 50, Knot & Bow, knotandbow.com.
- Wood **SWIVEL CHAIR,** $307, PBteen, pbteen.com.
- Large Wire-Wrapped **MAGNIFYING GLASS,** $20 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.
- Medium French Library **BOOKSHELF,** $1,495 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.
- **POSTCARDS** from Penguin, $31 per box of 100, Penguin, penguin.ca.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BOOK, LIBRARY CARD, POSTCARDS)

Thermador

LIGHTING A FIRE UNDER THE STATUS QUO

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replenish yourself & your wardrobe

Bored by the dullness that greets you when you swing open your closet doors or look down at your dry skin? A few punchy new pieces sprinkled throughout will breathe new life into your wardrobe, while Jergens® Replenishing Vitamin E Moisturizer will instantly restore skin to its softest state.

BAGGED EFFORT The easiest way to invigorate your entire wardrobe is by way of a new bag. This textured finish gives your overall look an instant update, while the sunny shade is one you can wear now (colour is a big winter trend) and carry through into spring and summer.

IT'S ALMOST MAGIC! For on-the-go touch-ups & a boost of shine, brush the John Frieda® Full Repair™ Flyaway Tamer wand over broken strands to weightlessly smooth flyaways and frayed ends. Keep your style perfectly polished anywhere you go!

TWINKLES TONES When you're craving a subtle serving of glam to perk up your basic button-down shirt or blouse, a pair of sparkling two-tone drop earrings will do the trick. Skip the necklace, and whisk hair back into a ponytail or chignon. Voila—instant glam. They're also a perfect choice for a night out.

WRAP STAR Since we tend to gravitate towards dark greys and blacks throughout winter, an injection of a fresh colour, like this turquoise scarf, conjures up visions of warm Caribbean waters and clear skies. This vibrant shade instantly updates your favourite black or grey winter coat.

Replenishing SKINCARE

- Transform parched skin that's been sopped of moisture with Jergens® Replenishing Vitamin E Moisturizer.
- You know from getting dressed in the morning that your time is precious. Don't waste it on products that take weeks to see results—this moisturizer promises results in just one use.
- With a rich blend of Vitamin E and natural moisturizers, this lotion absorbs beneath the skin's surface to help replenish lost moisture—leaving your skin feeling soft and smooth.

ALL THAT GLITTERS You can never go wrong with a little black dress—but this sequinned-topped number offers a little extra. Wear it solo, under blazers or crisp dress shirts—it's also equally at home with bare legs and strappy shoes or wool tights and lace up booties. The hit of sparkle will invigorate your spirit, too.

Jergens

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between rough
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Vitamin E
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and radiant.
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BEAUTIFULLY RADIANT SKIN AFTER JUST ONE USE.
Made with a rich blend of vitamin E, beta hydroxy and natural moisturizers,
Jergens® Replenishing Vitamin E Moisturizer helps restore and
rejuvenate dry, dull skin.
Jergens.® The Beautiful Difference.

LEMON POPPY SEED LOAF

A refreshingly light and lovely Meyer lemon delight to enjoy on a rainy (or sunny!) almost-spring day.

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE
TEXT SUZANNE MOUTIS
PHOTOGRAPHY JOE KIM

PUCKER UP and get ready to savour a sweet slice of cake with more than a hint of lemony tang and a yummy drizzly syrup to go overtop. As March winds blow and we wait impatiently for the first signs of spring, when we're in need of a bit of comfort, nothing beats a light lemon loaf à la Grandma's best and a piping hot cuppa as the perfect tea-time treat.

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 8

FOR SYRUP

- 1 to 2 large Meyer lemons
- ½ cup granulated sugar

FOR LOAF

- 1¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 6½ tbsp unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp fresh lemon zest
- 2 large organic eggs
- ½ cup whole milk
- 1 tsp poppy seeds
- 1 package blueberries for serving

1. PREHEAT THE OVEN to 350°F. Grease and flour a loaf pan; set aside. **2. SQUEEZE OUT** enough lemon juice to measure ½ cup. To make the syrup, stir together all but 1 teaspoon of lemon juice and sugar in a small bowl until dissolved. Set syrup aside. **3. TO MAKE THE LOAF,** sift together the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl; set aside. **4. USING AN ELECTRIC MIXER,** beat together the butter, sugar and lemon zest in a large bowl until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Slowly add the flour mixture, alternating with milk, until combined. Stir in the poppy seeds and reserved 1 teaspoon lemon juice. **5. POUR BATTER** into prepared pan and bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the loaf comes out clean. Let cool on a wire rack. **6. SERVE LOAF** in slices drizzled with lemon syrup and topped with a handful of fresh blueberries.

TIP The lemon poppy seed loaf can be wrapped and stored in an airtight container for four days, or wrapped in foil and frozen for up to one month.

LEMON POPPY SEED LOAF

READY IN 60 MINUTES

Sign up to receive more delicious recipes and fabulous entertaining ideas! Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/BEAUTIFULBITES.**

SHOPPING IN STYLE

PEOPLE ALWAYS *ask us*

The stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* are the go-to source for design dilemmas. This issue, the duo reveals smart small-space solutions for every room in your home.

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris.* Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at askstevenandchris@cbc.ca.

kitchen: conceal the clutter

Keeping odds and ends in the kitchen is often a convenience lost in a small space. This basket is a perfect storage solution for everything from light bulbs to party supplies. Tuck a few in a corner for a style statement that you can put to work.

dining room: choose stylish pieces

Closed storage can take up a lot of real estate, so choose your pieces carefully. This 1930s-inspired chest, with its clean lines, narrow profile and antiqued mirror doors, can house a number of everyday items and bounce light around the room.

home office: go high tech

Laptops are now equipped with everything under the sun and don't require a dedicated spot to work. This removable vinyl skin will not only protect your device but also double as a beautiful piece of art wherever it lands.

6 small-space solutions

living room: think vertically

The key to maximizing every square inch is to think vertically. This wall sconce will light up your room without cluttering up valuable surface space. Don't let its large scale scare you – consider this iconic light as a sculptural piece for your home.

entryway: hide & seek

Sometimes storing items is not an option. A simple screen can help hide any number of sins. We like the idea of using a screen to conceal wall hooks or a coat tree in a front entryway for a clean and clutter-free look that still feels welcoming.

bedroom: double-duty furniture

This is no ordinary end table: Open up the top and pull down the drawer and you've got yourself a desk. We love it because the table can hold your bedside essentials and then be instantly transformed into a functional workspace.

1. Jacquelyne Lidded-Barrel **BASKET,** $129, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca. **2.** Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Donnabella Four-Door **CHEST,** $2,620, Elte, elte.com. **3.** Sea Garden **LAPTOP SKIN** by Cosmo Cricket, $30 (for 11" MacBook Air), GelaSkins, gelaskins.com. **4.** Serge Mouille Two-Arm **WALL SCONCE,** $5,200 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com. **5.** Three-Panel **SCREEN** in Calvin Flax fabric, $2,427, Lee Industries, leeindustries.com. **6.** Gustavian **END TABLE**, $1,940, Julia West Home, juliawesthome.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BASKET)

The ***new*** Rice Krispies* Granola Bar

With ***whole grain oats*** and ***2 grams of fibre***, you'll love giving them as much as they'll love getting them.

NEW Kellogg's RICE KRISPIES Granola BARS

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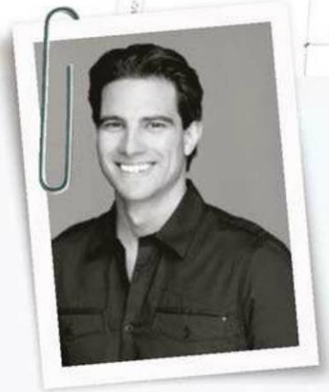


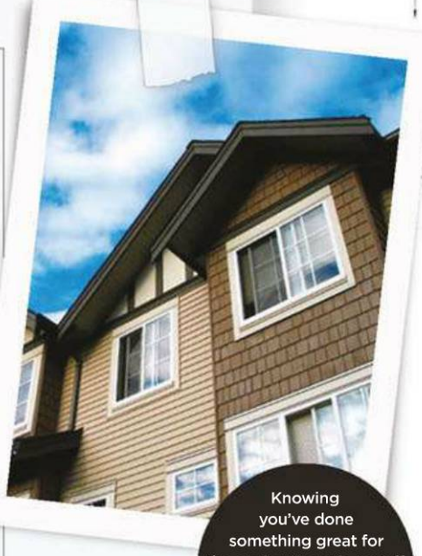
cashing in on credits

The rush of green products and eco-friendly renovations can provide homeowners some serious cash back in the form of government rebates. But with so many programs and incentives out there, it's hard to figure out what you may qualify for. Here are some suggestions that will help point you in the right direction. **TEXT** SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

Research programs at all levels of government to save you cash.

1 an audit you'll like!

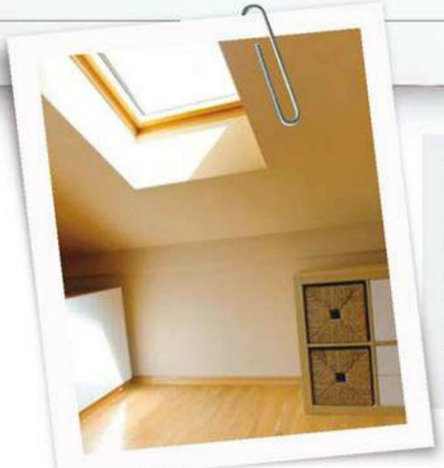
Having a professional energy audit done on your home should be the first step in the process of applying for government rebates for your renovation. The audit will tell you the areas where you need to invest first and help you determine which updates will get you the most cash back. Remember that the purpose of the audit is to reward energy-efficient upgrades to the home, not reimburse receipts. If you need a new furnace or air conditioning unit but can't afford to purchase one outright, you can have rentals installed for a monthly rental fee with no upfront costs, and still receive the full rebate. In other words, you're basically getting paid to have them installed. Check out the Natural Resources Canada website (nrcan.gc.ca) for information on cash-back programs for the Canada-wide ecoENERGY Retrofit Homes Program. Be sure to read the fine print carefully, because many government programs require you to pre-register. But with the potential to earn as much as $5,000 back from the federal government, it's time well spent. Act quickly because ecoENERGY plan applications need to be submitted before March 31, 2012.



Knowing you've done something great for the environment is payoff in itself, but at the end of the day, who doesn't want money in their pocket, too?

2 act locally, think globally

Provincial, municipal and local utility providers also offer many incentives to increase the energy efficiency of your home. If you're buying a new dishwasher in Kelowna, B.C., for example, you can get $75 back if your new appliance qualifies under the BC Hydro Power Smart Appliance Rebate program (bchydro.com/rebates_savings). If a new programmable thermostat is in your future and you live in P.E.I., you can qualify for a grant to get up to 15 percent of your investment back through the PEI Energy Efficiency Grant Program (gov.pe.ca/oee). If installing an air conditioner is on the books for those in Waterloo, Ont., you may qualify for up to $400 cash back through the Ontario Power Authority's SaveONenergy Heating and Cooling Incentive program (saveonenergy.ca). And Manitobans replacing their old toilets with dual-flush models can qualify for a $60 rebate per toilet for a maximum of two per home (gov.mb.ca/seeinggreen/what_can_you_do/water_money) – that's $120 of your money that isn't getting flushed away!



3 small jobs mean big savings, too

If a large-scale reno is not in the plans but replacing your furnace or adding a skylight is, then it's still worthwhile to check out possible rebates for smaller jobs. By simply replacing an exterior door with one that is EnergyStar rated for your particular climate zone, you can get a rebate of up to $40. Even weatherstripping and caulking can put money back in your pocket in the range of $190 to $430, depending on the original condition of your home. Extensive, easy-to-navigate websites, such as HomePerformance, offer guidelines for determining if an energy audit is required for a rebate and booking an energy audit (homeperformance.com).

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT)

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So get in touch with us before February 29th, the deadline for your 2011 contribution.

Find out where your retirement stands by visiting www.tdcanadatrust.com/retire and come in for a chat.

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high OR low...

can you tell the difference?

Feminine traditional meets contemporary chic in this girlie-glam office space that has as many personalities as the faces of Eve – all on either a reserved or an outspoken budget.

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE
TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY MICHEL DUBE

HIGH $31,165

- $900 Faces Series **ARTWORK** by Scott McEwan, L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.
- $400 Jonathan Adler Dora Maar **VASE,** Micasa Toronto, micasatoronto.com.
- $470 Glass Chloe **LAMP** in Aqua, Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com.
- $170 Diane von Furstenburg highball **GLASSES** in Opening Night (stripe) and Sandstone (polka dot), $85 per set of 4, The Bay, thebay.com.
- $490 JM Piers yellow glass Outrageous **TRAY,** 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.
- $479 Black-and-white bone chevron **BOX,** L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.
- $129 Eight-times lacquered teal wooden **BOX,** L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.
- $899 Turner **DESK** in Raven, Ethan Allen, ethanallen.com.
- $399 Polycarbonate gloss **CHAIR** in Smoked Grey, Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com.
- $3,240 Robert Kuo Jie **DRUM STOOL** in White Bronze, Studio B, studiobhome.com.
- $10,525 Thomas Pheasant for Baker Furniture mahogany Étagère **BOOKSHELF** in Dovetail Grey, Studio B, studiobhome.com.
- $1,250 Oil-on-canvas *Violet Gaze* **ARTWORK** by Geoff Farnsworth, Canvas Gallery, canvasgallery.ca.
- $279 Jonathan Adler Gorilla **SCULPTURE,** Micasa Toronto, micasatoronto.com.
- $145 Jonathan Adler Baboon **SCULPTURE,** Micasa Toronto, micasatoronto.com.
- $3,400 Pink silk velvet French Heritage Vincent Occasional Bergère **CHAIR** with Vauvray finish, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.
- $395 US Toscane Linen Nailhead **BENCH,** Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.
- $7,595 Vintage Collection Nepal wool-and-silk Classic **RUG** in Orange, 8′ x 10′, Elte, elte.com.

LOW $7,768

- $20 Portrait sketch **ARTWORK,** Value Village, valuevillage.ca.
- $28 Ceramic Face **VASE,** Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.
- $119 Ashlor ceramic Classic **LAMP** in Jade, Living Lighting, livinglighting.com.
- $48 White Dawn Tumbler **GLASSES,** $6 each, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.
- $29 Engineered-wood Small Rectangular Lacquer **TRAY** in Peridot, West Elm, westelm.com.
- $399 Cream-and-mauve bone Moroccan-style **BOX,** L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.
- $13 Blue **BOX,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- $499 Pine Cornwall Console **DESK** in Espresso Rub, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.
- $290 Polycarbonate Modern **CHAIR** in Smoke, FurnitureToronto.com.
- $950 Mirror-topped Z **DRUM STOOL** in Gold Finish, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.
- $1,839 Engineered-wood Ascend **SHELVES** in Taupe, $433 each (55″), $270 each (27″), Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.
- $600 Acrylic-on-canvas *Mao Minute* **ARTWORK** by Jacques Bossé, Canvas Gallery, canvasgallery.ca.
- $17 Ceramic bulldog **SCULPTURE,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- $13 Resin rhino **SCULPTURE,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- $199 Pink velvet bergère **CHAIR,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- $150 Cotton tufted **BENCH,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- $2,555 Second Life Turkish wool **RUG** in Orange, 7′ x 10′, Elte, elte.com.

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high or low

the facts of (shelf) life

PAINT the backs in bright colours to attract the eye.

LAYER smaller *objets* with larger ones on your shelf to lend interest and depth.

STACK items like books and boxes vertically and horizontally at different heights to engage the eye.

REPEAT similar items to create a sense of chic symmetry that unifies the vignette.

Dragon Fire S-G-240 PAINT (back of bookshelves), Behr, behr.com.

Pick your own preferred bookshelf hue – just make it as bold as these! Orange you glad there are colour alternatives?

Synergy SW6938, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Martha Stewart Living Sultana MSL101, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

Canterbury Lane 70RR 17 373, CIL Paints, cil.ca.

HIGH

Pink silk velvet French Heritage Vincent Occasional with Vauvray finish, $3,400, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.

INTO THE SALON

WHETHER ANTIQUE OR NEWTIQUE, **BERGÈRE CHAIRS** ARE EASY TO IDENTIFY. CHARACTERIZED BY THEIR PADDED ARMS AND BACKS, CARVED-WOOD FRAMES AND OVERSIZED SEATS, THEY'RE AS FITTING FOR THE 18TH-CENTURY FRENCH SEMIFORMAL SALONS WHERE THEY ORIGINATED AS THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR FRENCH COUNTRY STYLE HOMES TODAY.

LOW

Pink velvet, $199, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

ORANGE BOXES, L'ATELIER, 416-966-0200; WHITE LACQUER BOXES, INVU DRAPERY, INVUDRAPERYCO.COM; YELLOW PLATTER, BLACK-AND-WHITE PLATES, THE BAY, THEBAY.COM; PICTURE FRAMES, INDIGO, CHAPTERS.INDIGO.CA; KAINDLE FLOORING, THE HOME DEPOT, HOMEDEPOT.CA; PENDANT LIGHT, UNION LIGHTING & FURNISHINGS, UNIONLIGHTINGANDFURNISHINGS.COM; WAYSIDE INN 00YY 63/024 WALL PAINT, CIL PAINTS, CIL.CA; DIVINE PLEASURE WB210 INNER-BOOKCASE PAINT, BEHR, BEHR.COM

Style the perfect open shelf with these tips and tricks, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/STYLEOPENSHELVES.**

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the guiding light

WHILE A DESK CAN SHOULDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WORK YOU'VE DONE, THE RIGHT LAMP CAN ILLUMINATE THE WAY TO A BRAND NEW BRIGHT IDEA OR TWO. THAT PERFECT DESK-LAMP RELATIONSHIP IS REFLECTED IN THE THREE-PART HARMONY OF THESE **TABLE LAMPS:** SOFT BOYISH BLUE GONE GIRLIE WITH FEMININE CURVES AND A SUBTLE SHINE AT THEIR BASE.

high

Glass Chloe in Aqua, $470, Barrymore Furniture, barrymore-furniture.com.

low

Ashlor ceramic Classic in Jade, $119, Living Lighting, livinglighting.com.

PUNCH IT UP WITH PRINTS

Take your bergère from traditional, with soft silk, velvet, damask or toile, to modern, with bold geometrics, bright colours and rough, distressed **FABRICS** like linen or burlap.

ALL FABRIC, MacFab Fabrics, macfabfabrics.com.

Robert Allen Ikat Fret in Mango, $62 per yard.

Rowel in Pool, $110 per yard.

Designers Guild Marlia in Raspberry, $303 per yard.

Designers Guild Kirkton in Charcoal, $447 per yard.

high-low meter

Yesterday, it was all about the transparent ghost chairs first realized by Philippe Starck for Kartell. But today, those ghosts are getting smoked out of rooms by these smouldering hot **CHAIRS** with their cloudy grey, moody sophistication.

highest ⋯⋯⋯

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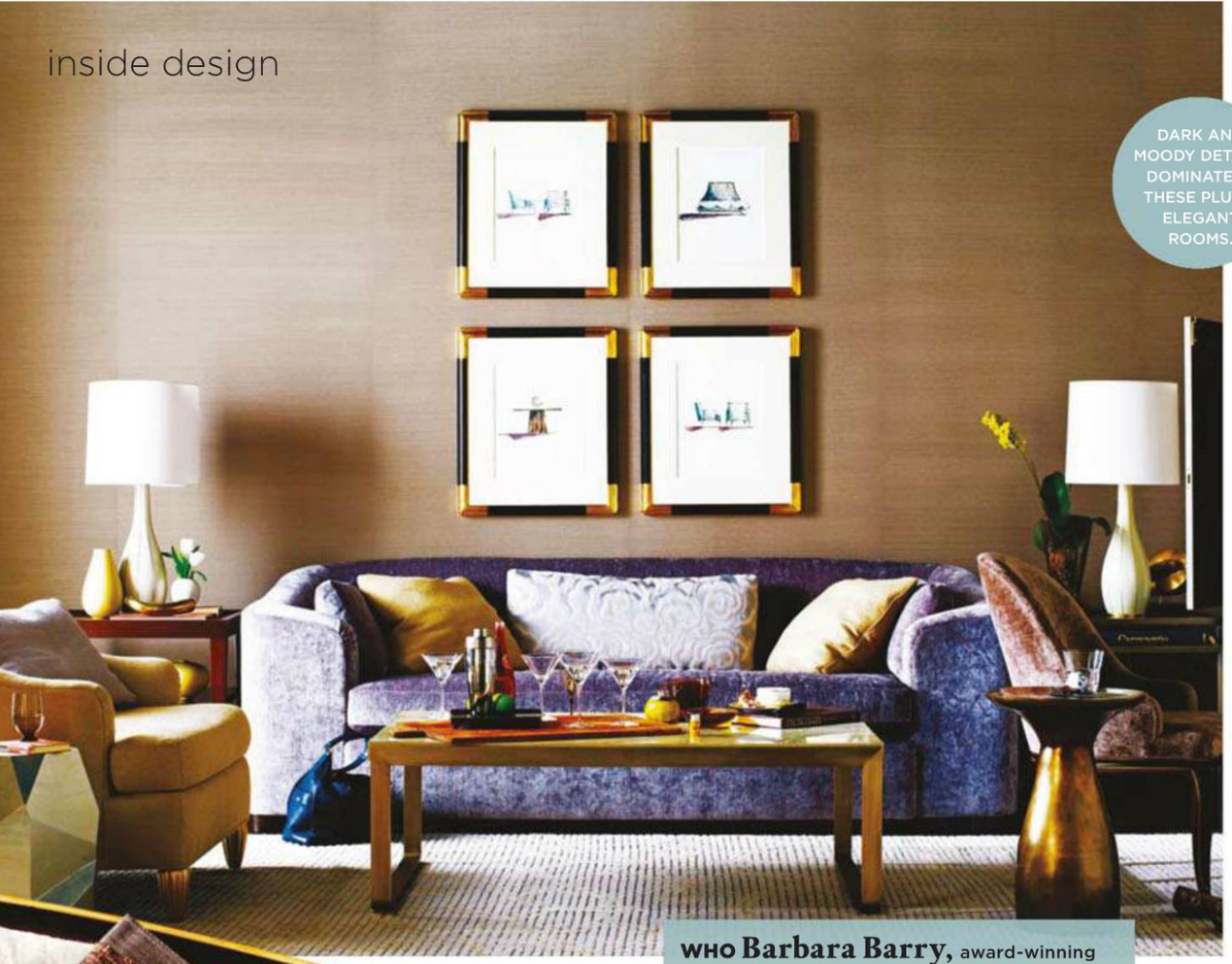

DARK AND MOODY DETAILS DOMINATE IN THESE PLUSH, ELEGANT ROOMS.

Inspired by her travels in Asia, Barbara Barry's Indochine collection of fabrics for Kravet boasts deep, rich, saturated colours and nods to nature.

WHO Barbara Barry, award-winning decorator, designer and tastemaker, whose refined body of exquisite work has earned her induction into the Interior Design Hall of Fame.

WHY WE LOVE BARBARA She's the empress of everyday elegance who imbues every interior with an air of quiet confidence. Simple and stately, grand and girlie, Barbara brings that ivory tower of chic within reach.

HAIL BARRY

PRODUCER SARA CATION

STYLE AT HOME How would you define your brand?

BARBARA BARRY Simple, elegant, quiet. I'm not really about fashionable items; I'm about understated items because they're something that you go back to again and again. You can dress them up, you can dress them down and, over time, those pieces serve you most.

Who inspires your designs?

I come from a family of painters, so I'm inspired by artists like Ben Nicholson [a British painter known for his abstract reliefs] and John Singer Sargent [the prolific American portrait artist]. I love art and art history, but my biggest inspiration is nature.

In what ways?

From the most beautiful celadon agave to the palest pink rose in my garden, I see beauty in the simple things that exist all around us – I don't have to be in a forest or a field to be inspired. I love watching the colours blend as I stir milk into a cup of dark coffee; I get excited about the pavement turning wet and dark grey when it rains. I'm a nut for life's little subtleties.

What can you tell us about the first room you designed?

I'm told that, when I was young, I designed a picket fence to go around my bed – likely because I shared my room with three sisters!

How has your aesthetic evolved over time?

My style is simpler, but quality means more. As I mature, I notice little details, like a jacket with the most delicious silk piping, the lining of a handbag or the seams on the sheets I sleep in.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF BAKER FURNITURE (INTERIORS), DAVID MEREDITH (INDOCHINE COLLECTION), MIKE E. HARRIS (PORTRAIT)

WE LOVE THE CHIC SIMPLICITY OF THIS LIGHT AND AIRY DINING ROOM.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF BAKER FURNITURE (DINING ROOMS, OVAL X-BACK CHAIR), COURTESY OF BARBARA BARRY INC. (TEA, LIVING ROOM)

What's on your bedside table right now?

Because I begin and end my day in the bedroom, I consider it the most important room in the house, so I work hard to keep it fresh and uncluttered. On my beautiful bedside table I have a small tray holding a carafe of fresh water and a crystal tumbler, my old wooden Baccarat clock, a little fresh-cut something (lavender, a rose, even a green leaf), artfully arranged books and my iPad if I'm listening to something. All of this creates this important little "moment" that I've styled for myself. These things aren't out there for others to see; they're for me. Even the inside of my refrigerator is a thing of beauty!

How so?

When I go to the farmers' market on Saturday, I come home and spend half of the day washing and arranging fruit in glass bowls and pouring milk out of the carton and into a glass jug. A cursory glance is as important as sitting and looking at something closely – seeing it on the inside as well as out.

In what ways have your Californian roots influenced your design?

Hugely! In colour, shape, light. Take London, England, for example. It's so grey there that I can see why it's highly decorative – the people need it! And I'm so impressionable when I visit. I think, I love all this colour! I love chintz! I love florals! But when I return to California, look out my window and see colourful flowers and lush greenery, I don't want to compete with that.

When you're decorating a room, what's the most important consideration?

Proportion. Man is the measure of all things, meaning that the minute we walk into a space, we know in our gut if it's way too big and cold or really warm and inviting. We tend to pay attention to labels, but instead we should quiet the mind and tune in to how things feel, like does this couch say 'Come sit on me'? You'd be surprised, our bodies know what suits us.

What piece does every living room need?

The one you're sitting on! That is my favourite chair; I call it the Bracelet Chair [shown in the room at bottom right]. It's in my bedroom in silver leaf and in my guest bedroom in ivory. It's a little bit of sculpture in a room.

And it makes those sitting in it feel so delightfully petite….

See? Proportion!

When should you splurge and when should you save when decorating your home?

If you spend your dollars right and you buy better, it means you're going to buy less. A lot of people say they're going to buy less expensive furniture because they have children and they'll just have to redo it in 10 years, but I was raised with some of the same furniture I inherited and, because it was well made, adding a slipcover makes it new again. You know how it is when you buy a really beautiful purse or watch and, even though it cost you everything, you get a certain feeling every time you engage with it.

Who would you love to design for?

I would love to design for an English silversmith because I love the precision of handworked silver. I'd design the smallest, simplest bud vase, the most perfect teaspoon, a tray and a coaster.

What do you do when you're feeling uninspired?

I move into my guest room for a few days because it's all ivory and there's no interruption. When I lose my way, I just need to be calm, in crisp pyjamas with a cup of tea. No books, no magazines, nothing! If I hold still long enough, pretty soon that little motor starts working again and I start drawing.

What's the most important thing you've learned about the design business since you've been in it?

To stay small, to stay authentic. My vision is actually quite fragile. I can't look at everything because I think I would lose my way.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXXXX

Barbara Barry Citrine Blend No. 7037 loose-leaf **TEA,** T, tealeaves.com; Baker Furniture Oval X-Back **CHAIR,** Studio B, studiobhome.com.

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BARBARA'S BIG 15

ACHIEVE EVERYDAY ELEGANCE IN THESE 15 EASY WAYS.

1. ENLARGE ANY ROOM with a simple mirror to bring in the sparkle of light.

2. USE YOUR SILVER every day, not just for special occasions.

3. DRESS WINDOWS in fabrics that are the same colour as the walls to visually expand the space.

4. UNCLUTTER YOUR ROOMS every now and then. Simplicity equals elegance.

5. OPEN UP ONE OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL BOOKS to a page that inspires you.

6. ORGANIZE YOUR CLOSETS; this will instill a sense of order.

7. REMEMBER THAT A NICE STACK OF FRESH TOWELS or linens is a thing of beauty.

8. CUT SOMETHING FRESH, even a branch with leaves, to bring the outdoors in.

9. UPLIFT HUMBLE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS by placing them in pretty bowls or glass jars.

10. TAKE TIME TO TAKE IN WHAT YOU HAVE. A moment for tea by yourself or with a friend can be wholly renewing.

11. ALWAYS CHOOSE QUALITY over quantity. It pays dividends.

12. OPT FOR PLAIN FABRIC over patterned fabric – life is the pattern!

13. CREATE DAILY RITUALS, such as a warm bath, that make you feel well cared for.

14. HONOUR THE INTIMACY OF BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS by leaving shoes outside the door.

15. TREAT YOURSELF SPECIAL because when you feel better about yourself, you treat others better. That's elegance in motion.

5 things Barbara can't live without

1 | **"Whether it's the oldest sweater in my closet or a brand new one – it might even be my robe or slippers – I couldn't live without ivory cashmere."**

2 | **"I couldn't live without all of my wonderful things by Apple – my Mac, my iPhone and all my technology."**

3 | **"I couldn't live without my pearls."**

4 | **"I couldn't live without my dog, Oliver. *Could not.* He's a miniature long-haired dachshund."**

5 | **"I couldn't live without my girlfriends!"**

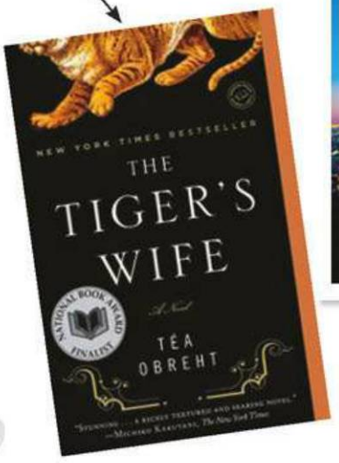
BARRY FAVOURITES

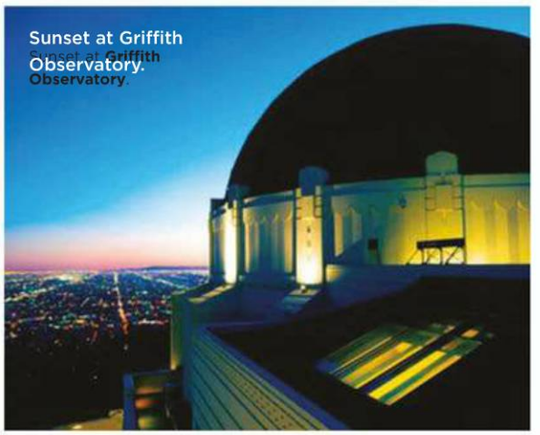
nail polish

Le Vernis **NAIL COLOUR** in Dragon 475, Chanel, chanel.com.

book of the moment

"Right now, I'm reading a great book on rowing. I love the sport, so I'm learning the history of rowing and rowboats. I just finished *The Tiger's Wife*. Did you read it? Oh my gosh, it's fantastic!"





Sunset at Griffith Observatory.

sunday ritual

"Going to the farmers' market or hiking up to Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, but I don't do them back to back!"

PHOTOGRAPHY, VICTORIA PEARSON (PORTRAIT). ISTOCKPHOTO (PEARLS, OBSERVATORY, BRANCH)

For more interviews with your favourite designers, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/INSIDEDESIGN.**

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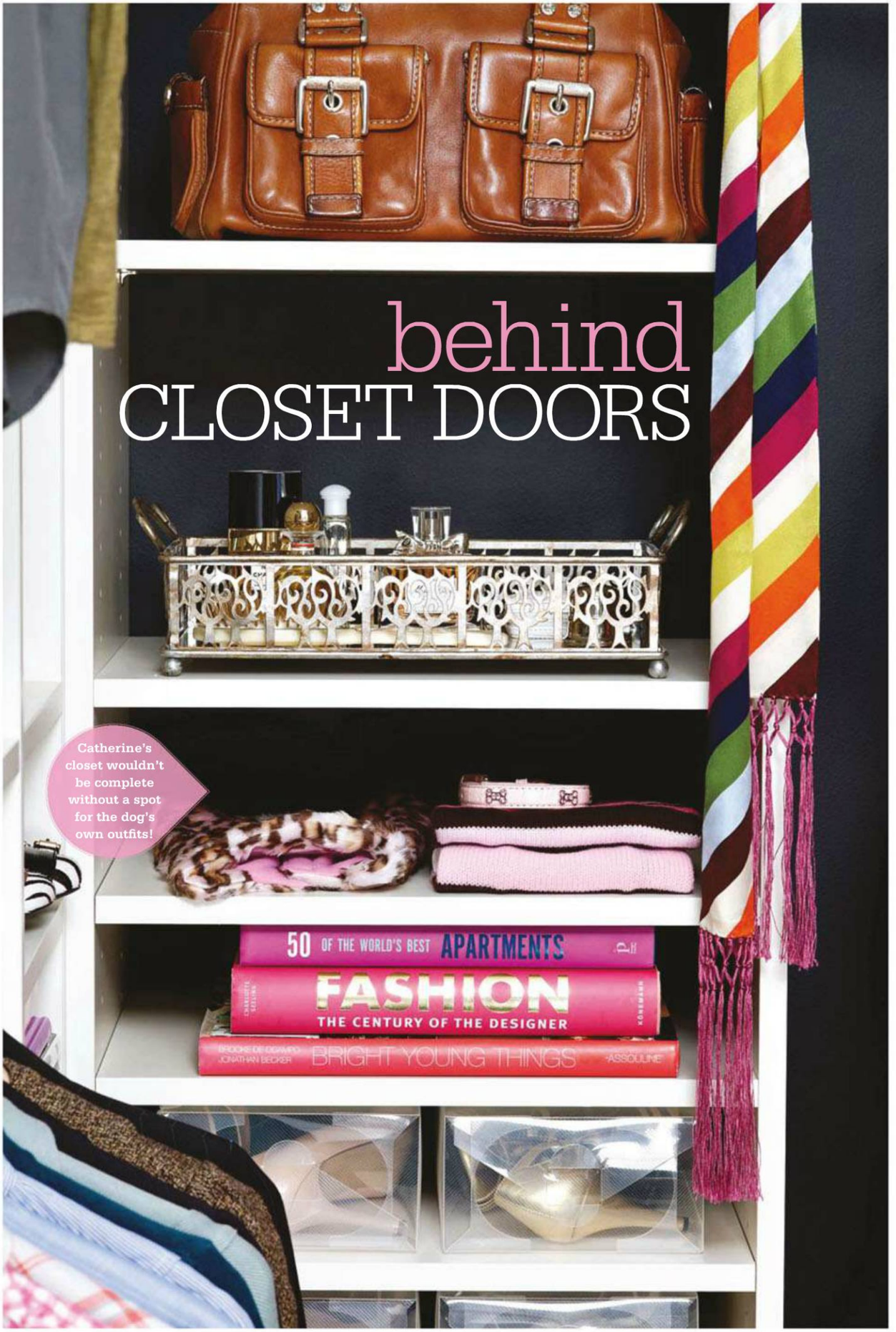
Catherine's closet wouldn't be complete without a spot for the dog's own outfits!
50 OF THE WORLD'S BEST APARTMENTS
FASHION
THE CENTURY OF THE DESIGNER
BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

Style at Home's senior editor, Catherine Therrien, is all about order. After two years of living with a non-compliant closet system in her master walk-in, she knew it was time to call on the experts and work with one willing to realize this space's full potential.

PRODUCER
CATHERINE THERRIEN

PHOTOGRAPHY
DONNA GRIFFITH

Open shelving gives you the opportunity to artfully display your best wares and collections, from handbags to shoes to pretty perfumes.

MasterSuite **CLOSET SYSTEM** in Antique White, ClosetMaid, closetmaid.com; **CLOSET DESIGN & INSTALLATION,** TailorMade Closets, tailormadeclosets.com; Valspar Lincoln Cottage Black 4009-2 **WALL PAINT,** Lowe's.

The seeds of inspiration

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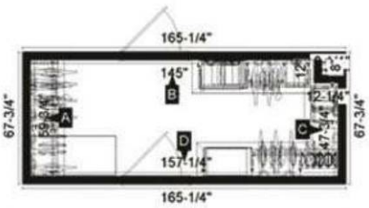
the before

The original closet system that came with our new-build home included only a single tier of basic wire shelving. Because the 78-square-foot walk-in closet is situated between the master bedroom and bathroom, it also acts as a passageway; as a result, there are two doorways to contend with, as well as two substantial jut-outs from piping and the staircase.

the plan

Although my husband, Aaron Putman, and I are fairly handy and resourceful, designing a fully functional closet was beyond our skill set. Enter closet expert Dermot Connolly of Toronto's TailorMade Closets. Using ClosetMaid's customizable MasterSuite line, he offered up endless configurations of possible layouts to meet our needs and, of course, those of our little Yorkshire terrier, Chloe, who has also claimed part of the closet.



To take advantage of the room's nine-foot-high ceilings, Dermot suggested using the line's upgraded 96-inch-high, 14-inch-deep system.

The final design features designated areas for his and hers items, including open storage with double-hang rods for tops, jackets, pants and skirts, and shelves for folded sweaters, jeans and shoes.

The design also incorporates a nook for tiny Chloe's pet bed and a spot for a decent-sized laundry basket.

the look

Valspar Lincoln Cottage Black 4009-2 **WALL PAINT,** Lowe's.

24955 **BENCH CUSHION FABRIC** in 16, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

Oil-rubbed bronze **HANDLE,** The Home Depot.

Bumerang **HANGER,** IKEA.

Rens **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA.

Savannah Lidded **BASKET,** Pottery Barn.

the result

Not one to shy away from the dramatic, I selected a soft black for the walls so that the antique white closet system would stand out.

I also wanted the space to feel like a decorated room, so I layered in accessories like artwork and a mirror.

Crown moulding and oil-rubbed bronze hardware add the finishing touches.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PRODUCTS); RENDERINGS & FLOOR PLAN: TAILORMADE CLOSETS

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Strawberry Acai and Cherry Pomegranate.

We Bake the Nice Right in.

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the details

hers

After determining what to keep, toss and donate, I maximized prime real estate by placing the pieces I wear most at eye level and in the most accessible spots. Formal wear was relegated to the back of the closet and out-of-season items to baskets on the top shelves.

Bumper **DOG BED,** West Paw Design; Savannah **BASKETS,** Pottery Barn.

his

Aaron likes to arrange his clothing so he can actually see everything. He says it makes for faster dressing. The jut-out on this side of the closet was turned into a comfy bench with the simple addition of a custom seat cushion.

24955 **BENCH CUSHION FABRIC** in 16, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; **SEWING,** Gail Leger.

Since the home didn't come with a linen closet, we added upgraded glazed solid-wood cabinet doors with soft-closing hinges to the shelving unit to house towels, bed linens, pillows, throws and blankets.

Cable-knit **THROW,** Pottery Barn; Lidan **BASKETS,** IKEA.

Rather than crowding my bathroom vanity, I corralled my collection of perfumes and a few antique finds and displayed them on a mirrored tray on one of the shelves.

Miss Dior Chérie **EAU DE PARFUM,** The Bay; ivory **HAIRBRUSH,** HomeSense.

I tend to keep jewellery stowed in its boxes in a hundred different places. This compartmentalized jewellery tray keeps baubles all in one spot. Since I can see the pieces at a glance, I'm now more inclined to actually wear them.

These clear plastic shoe-boxes are just divine. Not only are they stackable and ventilated but they also protect shoes from dust. And you can easily see what's inside!

Clear **SHOEBOX,** Shoe Stör; Rens **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA.

Although they won't admit it, men need their own cool accessory organizers, too. ClosetMaid offers plenty of upgrade options like this convenient pullout tie rack, along with valet rods to display outfits, belt racks and lined jewellery inserts.

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CANADA'S styleathome

HARD AT WORK AND PLAY

PRODUCER CATHERINE THERRIEN
TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES

We've rounded up four very different workspaces that prove that equal doses of work (functional pieces) and play (personal, unique touches) make for orderly and inviting rooms. So whether you have a spare room or just a nook that's part of a larger space, examine your needs first and then give it a purpose with the right selection of furniture and accessories. You'll be inspired to get working in no time at all!

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MODERN QUARTERS

№.2
GLAM BOUDOIR

№.3
DO-IT-YOURSELF ZONE

№.4
CRAFT CENTRAL

Personal touches help bring character to a home office. On one wall (shown opposite), a series of four clocks displays the time for Toronto (home), Sydney and Copenhagen (where extended family resides) and the cottage. The locations are spelled out with tiles from homeowner Kara Reed's grandmother's old Scrabble game.

Kara has owned the sleek white leather-and-chrome Barcelona chair for years; the cozy Hermès blanket warms it up while injecting more colour into the room. Fresh flowers, which Kara buys for her home office every week, lend prettiness to the space and keep it from feeling institutional.

The cowhide rug brings another layer of warmth, pattern and texture to the simple white space, and the pile is low enough for the desk chair to roll across easily. The basic slab desktop, floating shelf and drawer unit make for a functional and versatile workstation. Colour comes from hits of orange – Kara's favourite shade – in artwork and accents.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

№.1

MODERN QUARTERS

An eight-month-long major renovation netted Toronto real estate agent Kara Reed a chic condo, which includes her freshly appointed home office. Housed in one of the home's three bedrooms, the otherwise white and modern space receives a big hit of visual warmth from reclaimed flooring and orange accents. The goal was to get simple, clean-lined white furniture and storage components that would blend seamlessly in the white room for an integrated look that's also super functional.

DESIGN, Carol Reed Interior Design, carolreeddesign.com; Pointing 2003 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **DESKTOP, FLOATING SHELF, DRAWER UNIT,** IKEA; **OFFICE CHAIR,** Chair Source; **DESK LAMP,** Absolutely; **RUG,** Elte; **ARTWORK,** Alanna Cavanagh.

WORKSPACE 411

THE SIZE
9 by 12 feet

THE PLAN Although this office space is kept simple, it's actually packed with loads of storage via the small drawer unit, the wall of bookshelves and cabinets on the other side of the room and a double closet.

THE LOOK All-white walls and furnishings are warmed up by the reclaimed ash flooring, a cowhide rug and plenty of orange accents.

№.2

GLAM BOUDOIR

A rarely used guest bedroom in this Toronto home now serves two purposes: a dressing room and an office. Designers Erin Feasby and Cindy Bleeks of Feasby & Bleeks Design infused the room with a subtle glamour thanks to the metallic oval-motif wallpaper and shimmery silk drapes. A deep writing desk is more than adequate for a laptop and a few files. "We wanted to take a different angle from the utilitarian office and bring a soft, feminine quality to the room," says Erin.

WORKSPACE 411

THE SIZE
11 by 13 feet

THE PLAN Since the room isn't meant to be a heavy-duty home office, a deep writing desk offers all the necessary workspace. Files are kept in the closet.

THE LOOK Inspired by the glamour of 1930s style, the space exudes elegance with shimmery touches, luxe accents and repeating circle and oval motifs.

A deep writing desk is a versatile piece that can move around if necessary. Its dark finish gives it a rich, high-end look, and its circular and oval details tie into the wallpaper, lamp, rug and chair designs. Placing the desk against the window allows natural light to spill over work papers and provides a more pleasant view than the wall.

The picture-rail trim was installed to create a stopping point for the wallpaper because the room has a coved ceiling line.

Dark grey velvet chairs with nailhead detailing make a cozy spot for reading. Union Jack toss cushions in a pale colour scheme inject a bit of fun into the romantic space.

DESIGN, Feasby & Bleeks Design, feasbyandbleeks.com; Beauti-Tone Style at Home Colour Collection Angora SD021 **WALL PAINT** and SD022 Satin **TRIM PAINT,** Home Hardware; Graham & Brown 57221 **WALLPAPER,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **DESK,** Cornerstone Home Interiors; **LIGHT FIXTURE, ARMCHAIRS,** Union Lighting & Furnishings; **DRAPERY,** inVU Drapery Co.; **RUG,** Weavers Art; **SIDE TABLE,** Elte; **ARTWORK,** Art Interiors; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Putti Fine Furnishings.

PHOTOGRAPHY: VIRGINIA MACDONALD

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With a little imagination and some power tools, homeowners Jennifer Flores and Sean Stanwick turned IKEA's Expedit bookshelves into wall-mounted cubbies for storing books, magazines, fabric and paint chips. The base of the desk is made from file drawer units, with legs attached rather than casters. Kitchen countertops are also off-the-shelf IKEA pieces turned into an expansive desktop for two.

A mix of open and closed storage allows books and magazines to be easily accessible, while any unsightly office supplies can be tucked away. One drawer is entirely dedicated to the family camera and all of its accessories. Jennifer made the bulletin board by framing an inexpensive piece of corkboard and painting it with thick white diagonal stripes.

№.3

DO-IT-YOURSELF ZONE

Being self-employed comes with its own challenges, and being organized is priority No. 1. When bloggers Jennifer Flores and Sean Stanwick (ramblingrenovators.blogspot.com) set up a dedicated office in the smallest of the three bedrooms in their Toronto home, two workstations made more sense than one giant desk in the middle of the room. "We wanted to clear the floor space for our daughter, Chloe, who plays in there while we work," explains Jennifer. Bold colour on the walls and white storage units form the backdrop for both work and play.

Brookside Moss 2145-30 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **COUNTERTOPS** (used as desktops), **DRAWER UNITS, BOOKSHELVES** (mounted on the wall), **RUG, DRAPERY FABRIC,** IKEA; **CHAIRS** (painted white), HomeSense; **SEAT CUSHION FABRIC,** Tonic Living.

WORKSPACE 411

THE SIZE
8 by 10 feet

THE PLAN An extra bedroom was converted into a home office for these fun-spirited design bloggers and DIYers extraordinaire. The L-shaped configuration creates two separate workstations and leaves ample floor space for the couple's daughter to play.

THE LOOK Bold colours, playful patterns and crafty projects give this space its fun, fresh vibe.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANGUS FERGUSSON; STYLING, ANN MARIE FAVOT

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Creativity flows easily with all your tools close at hand, either tucked away in drawers and cabinets or within quick reach on the single long countertop that acts as a work surface. Simple flat white cabinetry with chunky stainless steel hardware is easily wiped clean. Display frames made from chicken wire and blackboard offer a place to dry painted pieces.

Each workstation contains two drawers and a closed cabinet, with plenty of wall space for displaying kids' creations. Baskets hidden inside the lower cabinets store craft, paper and homework supplies.

The iconic Tripp Trapp chairs by Stokke have a height-adjustable seat to accommodate the children's different sizes as they grow.

№.4

CRAFT CENTRAL

There's no clutter quite like kid clutter. And when there are four of them in a house – aged 11, 8, 6 and 3 – the paperwork and art masterpieces pile up fast. To contain the avalanche of craft supplies, homework and artwork, Montreal homeowners Gillian and Marc Lustig designed and commissioned a custom desk in their basement family room. The simple 14-foot-long unit has closed storage for supplies and four workstations so that each child has his or her own zone.

WORKSPACE 411

THE SIZE
18 by 22 feet

THE PLAN The 14-foot-long desktop stretches between a wall and a staircase at one end of the basement family room, acting as an art and homework station.

THE LOOK The palette is completely neutral, with flat white cabinets, a white countertop and pale natural wooden chairs; this allows the kids' artwork to really pop and each masterpiece to take centre stage.

DESIGN, Heidi Smith Interiors, heidismithdesign.com; **DESK FABRICATION,** Custom Worx; Tripp Trapp **CHAIRS,** Stokke; **DISPLAY FRAMES,** HomeSense; **RADIO, TAPE DISPENSER, STORAGE BOXES, DESK PADS,** Essence du Papier.

FOR SOURCES AND TO GET THE LOOK, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY: DONNA GRIFFITH; STYLING: NICOLA MARC

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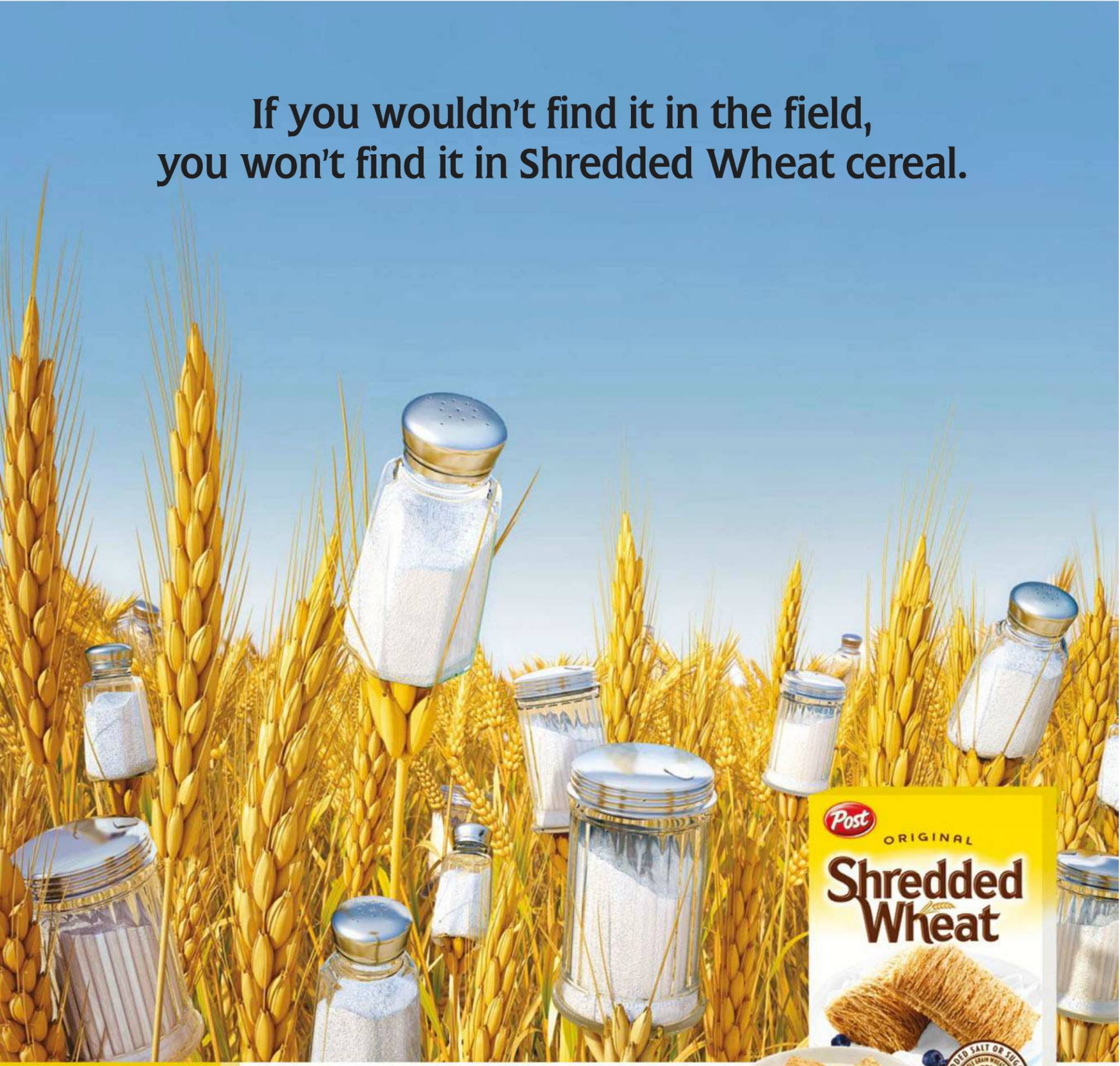

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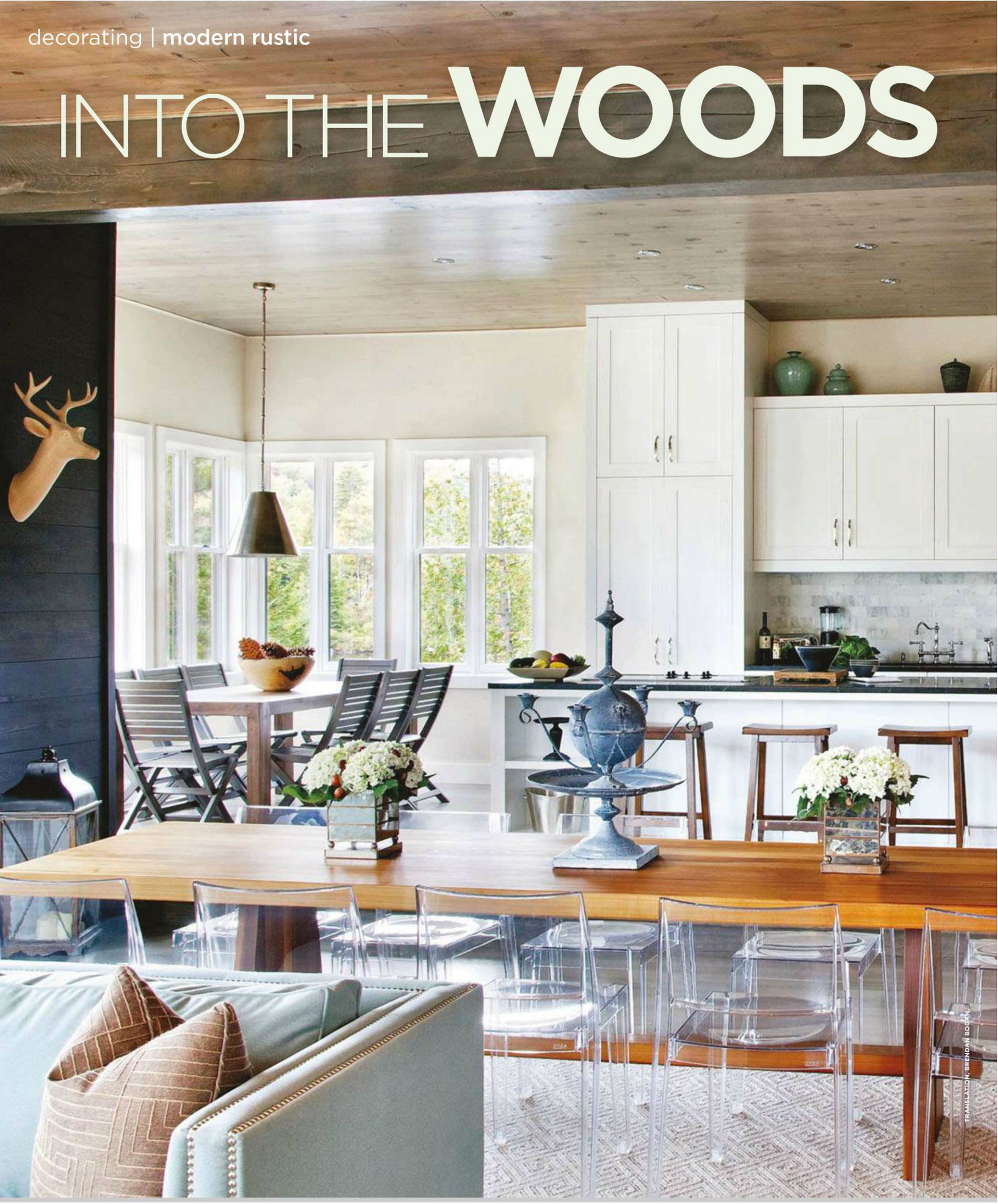

TRANSLATION: BRENDAN BOGAN

Set in the picturesque Laurentian countryside, a cedar-and-stone home stands in perfect harmony with its natural surroundings.

TEXT NICOLE SAVOIE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** NICOLAS RUEL | **STYLING** LUCIE DESMARAIS

In the kitchen and dining area, modern touches, such as white lacquered cabinetry and contemporary acrylic chairs, are balanced with more rustic elements, such as the recycled-wood dining table and the bookshelf. The contrast is in keeping with the rest of the home's decor.

ARCHITECTURE, JBC Architectes, jbcarchitectes.ca; **DESIGN,** Jean-François Ménard, 514-485-1920; acrylic **DINING CHAIRS,** Maison Corbeil; **BOOKSHELF,** Cuisilab; **HANDLES,** Quincaillerie Richelieu; marble **BACKSPLASH,** Ciot; **BAR STOOLS,** Zone.

Built on the foundations of 19th-century department store pioneer Henry Morgan's hunting lodge, this vacation home is nestled on the shores of Lac de la Cabane in the Laurentian countryside, just north of Montreal. Its owners, Laurentian native Guylain Verdier and his wife, Katrine, discovered the site during a walk through the woods. Guylain ended up purchasing a huge parcel of land, mostly for development, but set this site aside for his family.

The 5,000-square-foot house was designed in collaboration with Marc Julien and Denis Cyr of JBC Architectes and designer Jean-François Ménard. The house has an hourglass shape, with space divided between two large areas – one in front and one in back – connected by a light-filled

ABOVE With exposed beams above and pine and slate finishings below, the tone is set in the home's spacious entryway, which leads back toward the living spaces and views of the lake.

FLOORING, Ardesia; **BENCH,** Maison Corbeil; **TABLE LAMP,** Jardin de Ville; **RUG,** Sundance Catalog; **ACCESSORIES,** Arthur Quentin; **ARTWORK** by Darlene Cole, Galerie de Bellefeuille.

SIMPLICITY AND UNITY BEST DESCRIBE THE APPROACH TAKEN TO THE HOME'S STRUCTURAL AND INTERIOR DESIGN.

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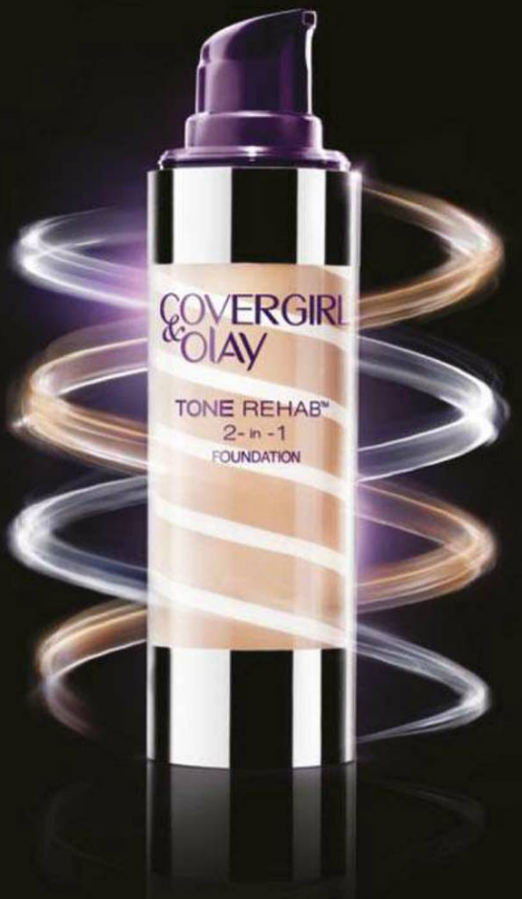

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hallway. With commanding views of the lake, the living room, dining room and kitchen comprise a large, open space at the back brightened by plenty of windows. The front end is appointed with the main entryway, as well as a bedroom, a powder room, a small cloakroom and a whirlpool bath (mostly used by the couple's kids, Margaux and Sarah, to warm up after a brisk swim in the lake).

Guylain's dream of a truly contemporary space that pays homage to its peaceful natural surroundings required a close collaboration between the home's designers. Their teamwork boasts beautiful results: The interior exists in perfect harmony with the landscape. The choice of natural materials, such as wood, stone, linen and wool, creates a clean and fluid continuity between the indoors and out. This continuity is reinforced by the sober neutrality of the grey-toned palette, juxtaposed with modern contrasts of dark and light. The kitchen's white lacquered wood cabinetry, the darkened tones of the home's low walls and the open steel-and-wood staircase quietly speak to the finest in contemporary style.

Simplicity and unity best describe the approach taken to the home's structural and interior design. This theme is readily apparent in the choice of furniture, exemplified by a large, modular sofa upholstered in baize, as well as the long, recycled-wood dining table, surrounded by acrylic chairs. Upon entering the house, visitors are enveloped in the serenity it commands. And that's the ultimate goal for a home perfectly enmeshed in its natural environment yet reflecting the modern spirit of the inhabitants within.

ABOVE & LEFT A raised-stone fireplace is the focal point for gatherings of family and friends, who settle into the plush, baize-covered sofa. Summer or winter, the wall of windows provides a majestic view of the surrounding natural environment, producing a wonderfully cozy refuge.

WINDOWS, Segabo Design; modular **SOFA,** Celadon; **ARMCHAIRS, END TABLE,** Maison Corbeil; **VASE, BUCKET,** Arthur Quentin.

OPPOSITE The simplicity of the decor increases the feeling of refinement thanks to the organic quality of materials used – wood, stone, wool and linen – and the room's neutral palette.

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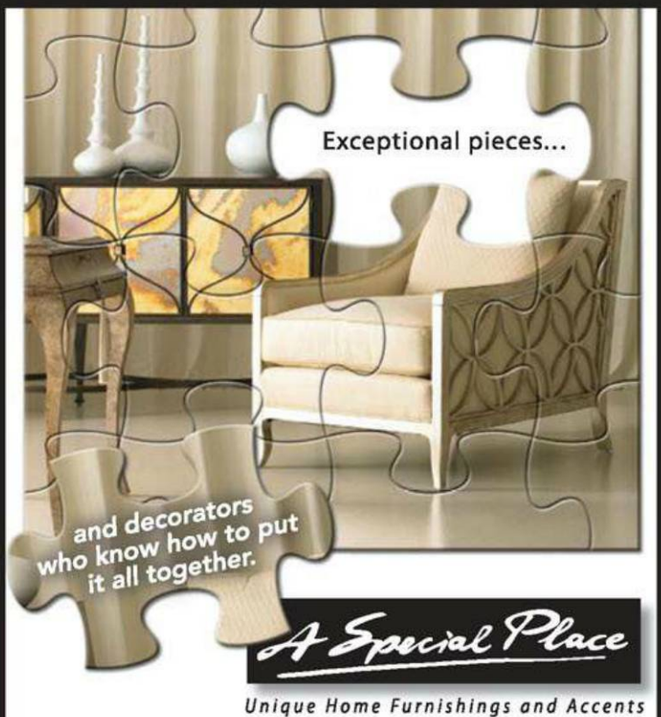

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The master bedroom uses structural avant-corps to its advantage: The room's reading nook is flooded with natural light, with windows that make you feel as if you're suspended in the forest, overlooking the lake. "Katrine asked me to create a box bed similar to one she liked in a decor magazine," says designer Jean-François Ménard. The hemlock built-in headboard links two tall cabinets with low-placed drawers.

WALL UNIT DESIGN, Jean-François Ménard; **WALL UNIT CONSTRUCTION,** Segabo Design; **CHAIR,** Montauk; **FLOOR LAMP, CUSHION,** Maison Corbeil; **BEDDING,** Carré Blanc; **VASE,** Bleu Nuit.

THE CHOICE OF **NATURAL MATERIALS** CREATES A CLEAN AND FLUID CONTINUITY BETWEEN THE INDOORS AND OUT.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, NORMAN POGSON/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

PERSONALITY TEST

Finding a new townhome development in downtown Toronto gave these homeowners the perfect opportunity to create a clean, modern aesthetic that's full of character.

The living room's display cabinet, which homeowner Catherine Chan purchased from Craigslist, houses items received from friends or picked up on travels. "It's a glass cabinet, so we can still see things, but they don't collect as much dust!" says Catherine. The quirky Art-imals rabbit sculpture adds a hit of red.

DESIGN, Croma Design, cromadesign.com; Decorators White CC-20 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; Toronto **POSTER,** Ork Posters; red Art-imals rabbit **SCULPTURE,** James Robertson Art Consultants; Cosy in White **TABLE LAMP,** Muuto.

The dining nook is defined by iconic pieces like the Saarinen dining table and Guillon cord chairs (Catherine found the table and two of the chairs on Craigslist). The hanging candelabra ties in with the wooden elements in the space and creates a moody atmosphere when the candles are lit.

Grasscloth Astek Passions of the Orient PO135 **WALLCOVERING** (throughout), Metro Wallcoverings; Saarinen **DINING TABLE,** Matera **MIRROR,** Design Within Reach; Jacques Guillon Cord **CHAIRS,** Avenue Road; Roll & Hill Agnes Hanging **CANDELABRA,** Hollace Cluny.

Artwork in the living room provides interest and a bit of fresh contrast against the grasscloth wallpaper, which is repeated in the dining area and bedroom to bring continuity to the space. "The Deborah Moss pagoda prints offer a nice pop of white, and the gold ties in with the room's warm tones," says designer Amy Kent.

Flexform **SOFA,** Italinteriors; **ARTWORK** by Deborah Moss, James Robertson Art Consultants; **COFFEE TABLE,** Commute Home; Bev Hisey Sightlines **RUG,** Roll & Hill Excel **FLOOR LAMP,** Hollace Cluny; Jens **CHAIRS,** Design Within Reach; Cabin **THROW,** Granted.

"Catherine likes a modern, clean, spare aesthetic, but she has a lot of texture in her personality."

RYAN MARTIN, DESIGNER

"We were trying to do something a little different here – something that felt a bit more homey."

CATHERINE CHAN, HOMEOWNER

Eschewing the townhouse's builder-basic kitchen, the homeowners gave the expansive space a rich, homey aesthetic with a mix of recessed-panel elm and slab lacquered cabinetry, beige quartz countertops and a luxurious travertine backsplash.

SieMatic **CABINETRY,** Binns; travertine **BACKSPLASH,** Stone Tile International; Wolf **RANGE,** Tasco Distributors; Faber **RANGE HOOD,** DirectBuy; Cabano **FAUCETS,** Blanco **SOAP DISPENSER,** Taps Bath Centre; Miconos Sospensione **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Artemide.

The kitchen's eating area is defined by a massive oak Carl Hansen table surrounded by classic Wishbone chairs. An oversized drum-shade light fixture adds drama and anchors the space. "We hung it a bit higher than usual because we didn't want it competing with the pendant lights over the island," says Catherine.

Carl Hansen & Son CH322 **DINING TABLE** and Wishbone **CHAIRS,** Gabriel Ross; Moooi Round Boon **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Klaus; **PLANT POTS,** The Home Depot.

ABOVE The kitchen's expansive travertine backsplash offers a rich, dramatic focal point. "And it was key in pulling together all the pieces in the kitchen – the warms and the cools," says Amy. The Le Creuset braiser, given to the couple at their housewarming party, inspired the use of red throughout the house.

BOTTOM LEFT Elements like the commercial-style stove and Jeff Covey stools lend a cool, industrial vibe that offsets the kitchen's warm tones.

Aluminum Covey **STOOLS,** Gabriel Ross.

Cookie-cutter. Builder-boring. It's not uncommon to associate condominiums and townhomes with these unflattering design phrases. But it's also apparent that there are many exceptions to the "plain old box" rule. Case in point: Catherine and Nick Chan's modern townhouse, which they purchased pre-construction in Toronto's trendy King West area three years ago, showcases a distinctive, inviting look overflowing with design-savvy touches and personal style.

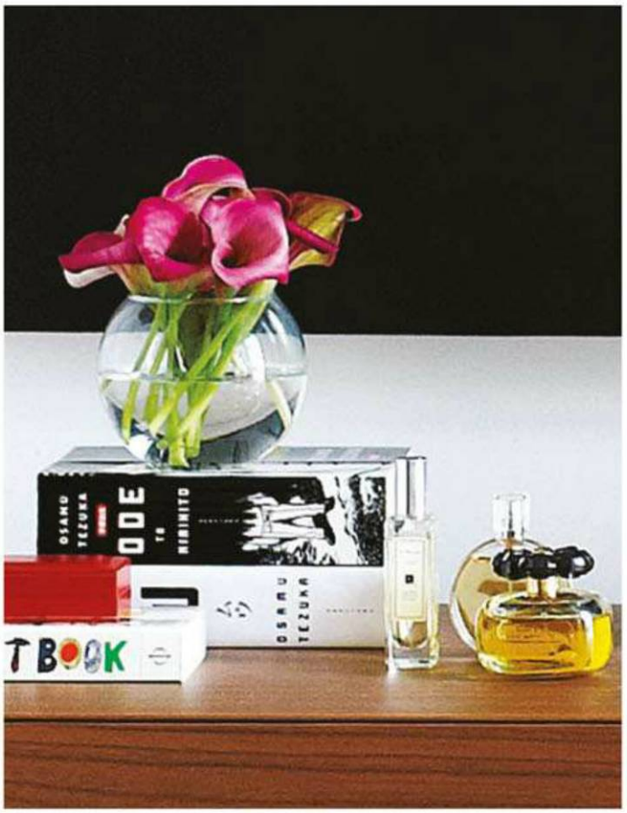
The house is a reflection of Catherine's character, say Ryan Martin and Amy Kent of Croma Design, the firm that helped tweak her decisions throughout this project and where Catherine worked as a project manager a few years ago. "She likes a modern, clean, spare aesthetic, but she has a lot of texture in her personality," says Ryan.

When Catherine, now a project manager in the computer industry, and Nick, a banker, decided they wanted to move from their loft, it was this 3,000-square-foot, four-level home's wide dimensions – 18 feet rather than the usual 12 to 15 – that they liked. And, conveniently enough, the new development was going up just down the street. "We really liked it, but we just thought, Do we actually want to move somewhere so close?" jokes Catherine. (Ultimately, they still loved their convenient downtown locale.)

For Catherine, a design aficionado who scours Craigslist for high-end items, putting the couple's personal stamp on the house was a must. This meant starting with a blank canvas by choosing finishes like clean-lined baseboards and doors, hardwood floors and an all-white painted backdrop.

The next step proved to be a considerable one when it came to giving the house its distinctive flavour. The couple forwent the townhouse's builder-ready kitchen and installed a custom design of their own with – what else? – a modern, warm feel. "We had a white kitchen in our loft," says Catherine, "so we were trying to do something a little different here – something that felt a bit more homey."

While the kitchen features clean lines, its combination of natural elements and warm colours – like the mix of cabinetry, the beige



> "The artwork is the first thing we see in the morning and the last thing we see when we go to bed."
>
> CATHERINE CHAN, HOMEOWNER

quartz countertops and even the reclaimed pine piece that acts as a breakfast bar – creates a welcoming ambience in this ample space. The show-stopping travertine backsplash offers a textural, dramatic focal point. "We picked the floor tile from the builder. And then we thought, Does this go? But then the travertine backsplash really tied it all together," says Catherine. "And you know it works when you see it in nature!"

The couple carried the same individualized style and unique grey-and-beige palette with hits of sophisticated black and pops of dramatic red throughout most of the house. (Even their two Pembroke Welsh corgis, four-year-old Nacho and one-year-old Humphrey, fit into the colour scheme – a purely unintentional coincidence, says Catherine.) Grasscloth wallpaper on feature walls, iconic pieces, natural materials and playful and artistic notes, such as the Bev Hisey rug and Art-imals rabbit sculpture in the living room and the Christien Meindertsma poufs in the bedroom, give each space its unique, laid-back quality.

"Everyone has their own style," says Ryan, "and Catherine is a good example of that." Making your space feel like home and reflect who you are is all about letting your personality really shine through.

LEFT, TOP A simple tableau of books, perfumes and a delicate flower arrangement is all that's needed to complete the dresser.

LEFT, BOTTOM In the bedroom, a clean-lined walnut dresser and dramatic artwork by Canadian artist Laura Wood create a simple vignette. "The art makes the room look more glamorous," says Catherine. "It's kind of romantic, and it's the first thing we see in the morning and the last thing we see when we go to bed."

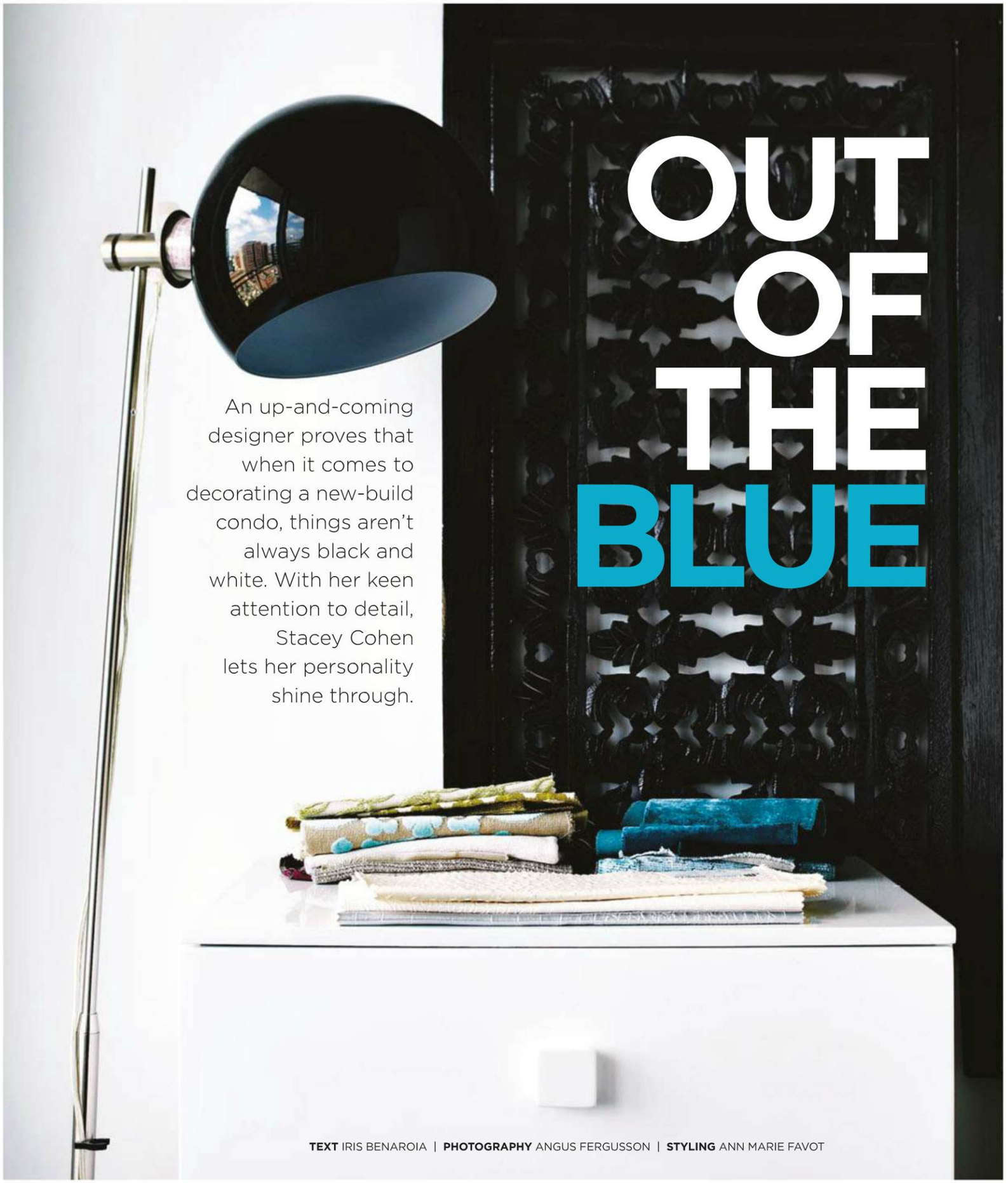
Poliform **DRESSER,** Interior Elements; Cosy in White **TABLE LAMP,** Muuto; **ARTWORK** by Laura Wood, Newzones.

BELOW Catherine takes a moment to relax in her modern yet comfy living room.

The bedroom's grey, beige and white palette offers a tranquil ambience, while the layering of textural items, such as the bedding, Christien Meindertsma poufs, fabric-covered bed frame and grasscloth wallpaper, adds interest.

Flexform **BED,** Italinteriors; Urchin **POUFS,** Christien Meindertsma; **SIDE TABLE,** Stylegarage; Jieldé Signal **LAMP,** Ella & Elliott; **ROBE,** Anthropologie; striped **BED LINENS,** West Elm.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



OUT OF THE BLUE

An up-and-coming designer proves that when it comes to decorating a new-build condo, things aren't always black and white. With her keen attention to detail, Stacey Cohen lets her personality shine through.

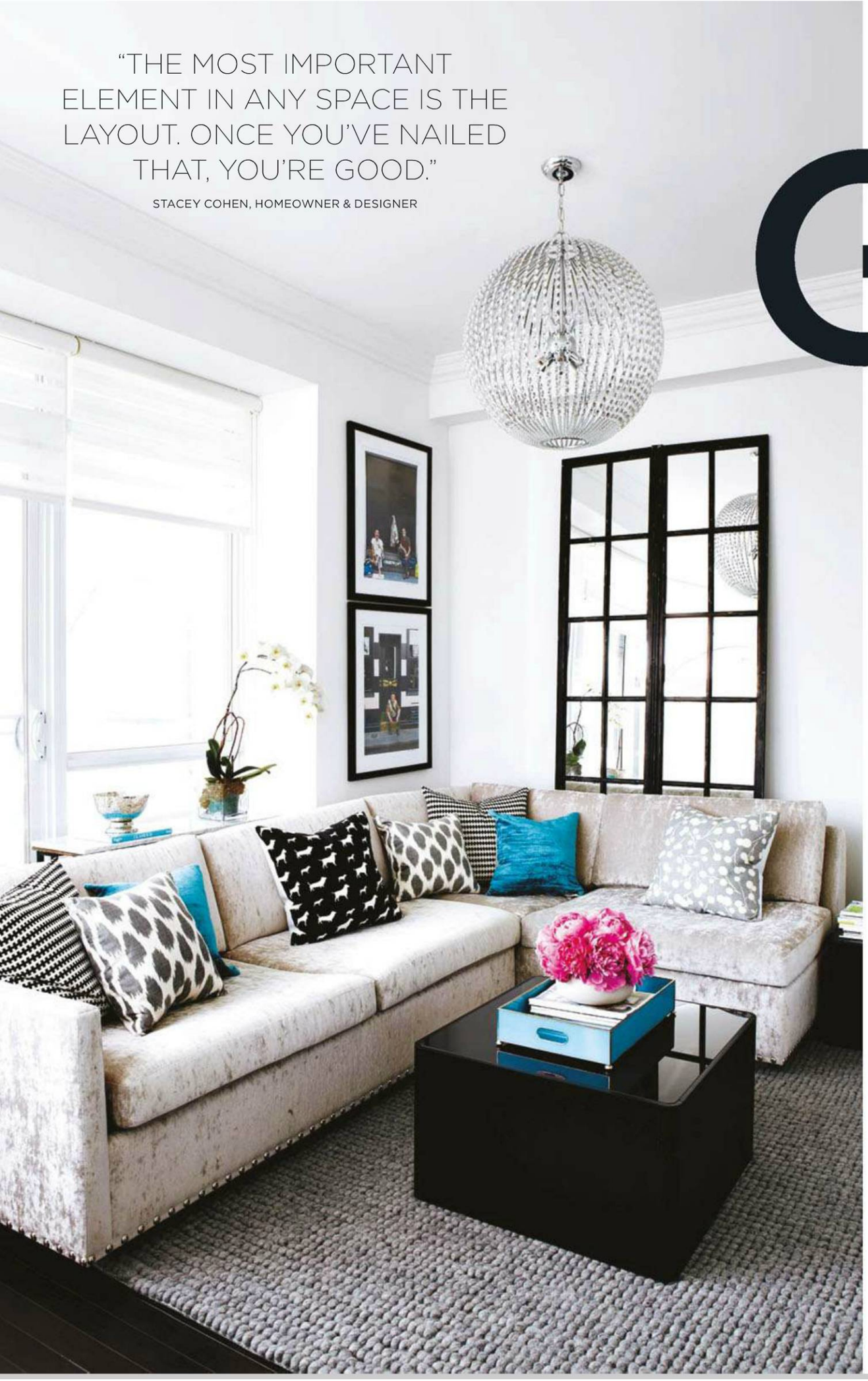
TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

Homeowner and designer Stacey Cohen treated the closet door to a dose of vibrant turquoise in an eggshell finish. To create contrast, its grooves were coated in a semi-gloss white: “It’s a nice way to make a statement and introduce colour in a less overbearing way,” she says.

DESIGN, Interiors by Stacey Cohen, interiorsbystaceycohen.com; **MIRROR, TABLE,** Que; zebra-print **BENCH,** Universal Lamp; Aquarium SW6767 **DOOR PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams.

OPPOSITE Stacey revived garage-sale screens with glossy black paint. Hung in the office, the effect is that of an art installation.

FLOOR LAMP, EQ3.



"THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ANY SPACE IS THE LAYOUT. ONCE YOU'VE NAILED THAT, YOU'RE GOOD."

STACEY COHEN, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

Given its crispness, Stacey Cohen's condo is remarkably cozy: One longs to plop down on the plump, velvety sectional for a snooze. And this urge isn't by accident: "One of my goals was to make the condo comfy, homey and modern but not minimalistic," says the fresh-faced 29-year-old designer of her enviably perfect pad in downtown Toronto, which was purchased off a blueprint in 2006. Stacey, who runs the flourishing Interiors by Stacey Cohen, moved into her home last June and began transforming the 965-square-foot condo from an empty shell into a delightfully youthful space chock full of personality. Her vision for the condo was to stick to a cohesive, neutral palette and add pops of colour – her poison is turquoise – through accessories. Doing so would allow for an easy switch-up, since all of the larger pieces are neutral.

Stacey admits her favourite part of the decorating process is seeing everything come together at the end with finishing touches. Best starting-out advice? "The most important element in any space is the layout – I'll always draw a floor plan, no matter how big or small a room is," she says. "Once you've nailed that, you're good."

Her wrists wrapped in bangles, the designer looks every bit as decorated as her surroundings. Even the

ABOVE Stacey recommends white or solid-coloured pieces when displaying dishware on open shelving, since a mishmash of hues would be jarring.

PLATES, IKEA; **MUGS, CREAM & SUGAR CARTONS,** Crate and Barrel.

ABOVE RIGHT For relaxed meals, one of the nicest spots in the condo is the light-filled dining nook off the kitchen. An arc floor lamp lends drama to the pristine setting.

Arc **FLOOR LAMP, DINING TABLE,** Nuevo Living; **BANQUETTE,** Interiors by Stacey Cohen; **BANQUETTE FABRIC,** Joanne Fabrics.

RIGHT Flowers are an easy way to layer in another colour without the commitment.

Turquoise **TRAY,** 1212 Decor.

FAR RIGHT Stacey amplified the condo's high ceilings with floating shelves that go all the way up.

SHELVES, IKEA.

OPPOSITE "The sofa's size and placement make the space feel larger," says Stacey. "I entertain all the time and there are never any traffic issues."

Custom **SOFA,** Interiors by Stacey Cohen; **SOFA FABRIC,** turquoise **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** black-and-white dog **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; IKEA Stockholm **TOSS CUSHIONS,** IKEA; grey-and-white floral **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Putti Fine Furnishings.

ABOVE LEFT The office nook came together with glossy white floating shelves. In the hallway, New York City subway-sign artwork adds a graphic punch and emphasizes the high ceilings.

Lack **SHELVES,** IKEA; **CHAIR,** UpCountry; Subway Sign **ARTWORK,** Restoration Hardware.

ABOVE RIGHT Stacey sits in the living room of her downtown Toronto condo. Behind her are photos of Paris taken by her father and framed for her as a gift.

LEFT Stacey topped the horizontal bookshelves with sets of drawers to add height and create additional storage for office supplies.

FAR LEFT Repeated details lend a sense of unity to the space. These crystal knobs, used as hooks on this mirror, are the same ones Stacey used on the media unit in the living room.

OPPOSITE To create this headboard effect, Stacey used a coat of charcoal paint and a stencil. It introduces a note of sophistication to the bedroom.

Kendall Charcoal HC-166 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; lace **PILLOWCASES,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

"ONE OF MY GOALS WAS TO MAKE THE CONDO COMFY, HOMEY AND MODERN BUT NOT MINIMALISTIC."

STACEY COHEN, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

crushed velvet sofa she's sitting on has bling – silver nailhead detailing added by Stacey outlines its base, while, above it, a dazzling light fixture emphasizes the condo's 10-foot ceilings. In fact, the designer tweaked several pieces throughout the condo to clever effect: the media unit in the living room (she swapped forgettable knobs for crystal ones and forwent the feet in favour of a wall-mounted design), the desk in her home office (improved with a mirror top), the wall in the bedroom (stencilled to create a headboard effect) and the dining table (now grand thanks to a marble top).

It's not surprising that Stacey lists, as inspiration, an American designer who's known for her exuberant tastes: "I love Kelly Wearstler's work and admire her boldness and willingness to take risks," she says. "I love the way she uses colour, pattern and texture in such unexpected ways." And it shows: Personalized details, plus a mix of finishes – including lacquer, mirror and Carrara marble – make the condo an impeccably tailored and tastefully chic space. It seems that creating personal style is as much about how you dress your home as it is about how you dress yourself.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

To find out more on Stacey's inspiration, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/STACEYCOHEN.**

TEXT CHRISTINA SYMONS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

FLOOR PLAN, SCOTT ROGERS

The massive dining table is a replica of one at nearby hot spot Salt Tasting Room restaurant. A modern abstract painting by Charles Forsberg and an antique chandelier enhance the scale and conversation.

DESIGN, Omer Arbel, omerarbel.com; **CHANDELIER,** Architectural Antiques; stone **BOWL,** Restoration Hardware; red **CUSHIONS,** The Cross Decor & Design; **PLACEMATS,** Provide Home.

light fantastic

A raw Vancouver loft space is transformed by an architect's poetic aesthetic.

the BIG reveal

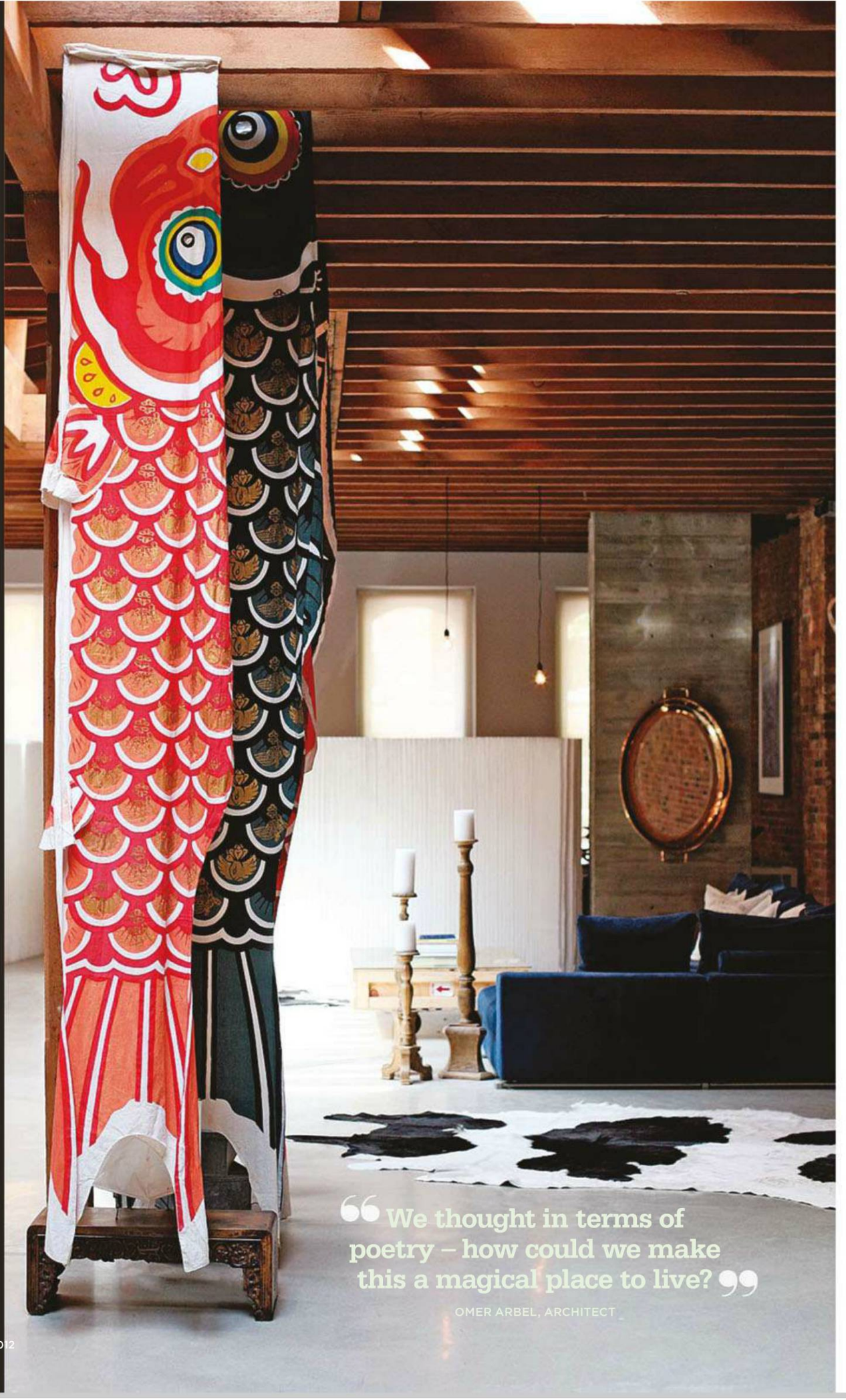
Architect Omer Arbel's tips for how to introduce modern elements to an existing space ripe with character:

Use dramatic colour shifts to distinguish new objects, while respecting vintage surfaces and palettes.

Embrace the contrast between old and new. "It's a tense conversation at times, but within that tension there's a wonderful place to inhabit," says Omer.

Use "reveals" to delineate materials. Allow for breathing space in the transition from new walls and fresh floors to existing walls and ceilings.

Apply discreet trim to define the lines between vintage and modern elements.



"We thought in terms of poetry – how could we make this a magical place to live?"

OMER ARBEL, ARCHITECT

Vancouver-based architect Omer Arbel doesn't set out to design living spaces that are merely beautiful and functional. For him, success depends on taking things to the next level – an exercise in architectural poetics.

In order for a space to flow, he believes, a sensitive arrangement of existing elements and bold new textures must interplay. In this 33-by-150-foot loft, the end result of his theory is pure delight – a deliberate placement of rough and smooth, rustic and sparkle, perfectly punctuated by a central shaft of open sky.

When Omer first saw the derelict industrial space in Vancouver's edgy Gastown district it was uninhabitable – a long, skinny rectangle only partially lit at either end. The primary goal was obvious – add light and make it inviting – but far from simple. "This was a cavernous space in a not-so-pretty neighbourhood," he says. "We decided to concentrate on light and create a sort of cube of nature in the middle of the floor plan rather than open up the views to the streetscape."

OPPOSITE Large hanging fish kites catch the light in the living room.

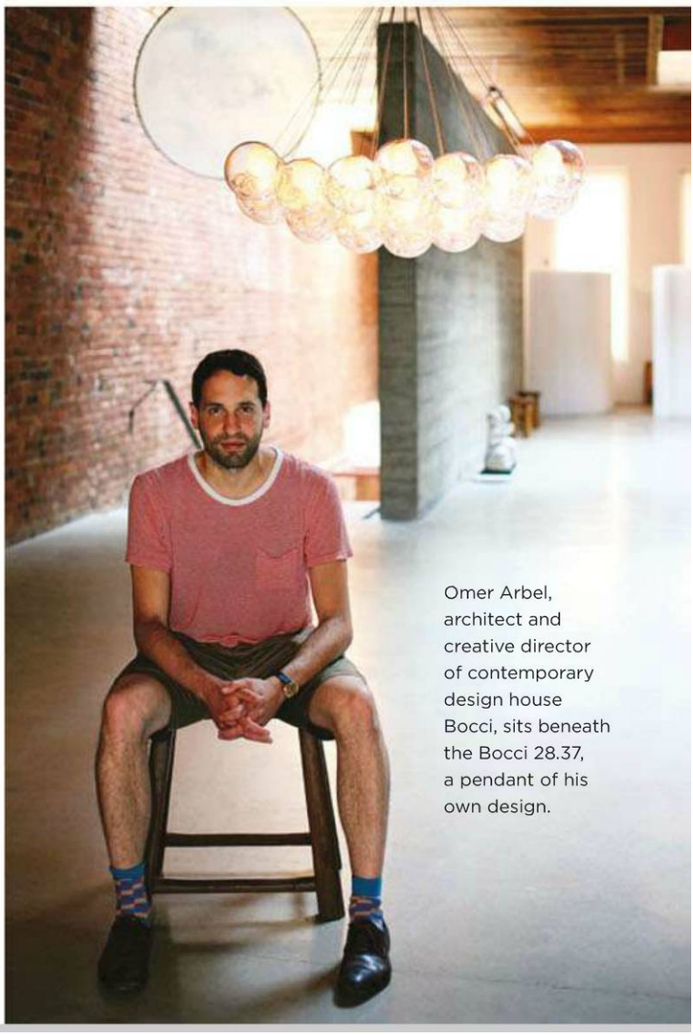
SOFA, Flexform; fish **KITES,** eBay; **TOSS CUSHIONS, CANDLESTICKS,** Restoration Hardware.

RIGHT Partly inspired by the work of Mexican architect Luis Barragán, the courtyard is a "window to the sky."

TABLE, CHAIRS, Örling & Wu; **MUGS,** Vancouver Special; **LIVING WALL,** ELT EasyGreen.

BELOW The streamlined kitchen faces the courtyard.

Boffi **CABINETRY, ISLAND, FAUCET,** Inform Interiors; red **BOWL,** Provide Home.



Omer Arbel, architect and creative director of contemporary design house Bocci, sits beneath the Bocci 28.37, a pendant of his own design.

> **Whenever we added something new to the existing structure, our intent was to set it apart in a very deliberate manner.**
>
> OMER ARBEL, ARCHITECT

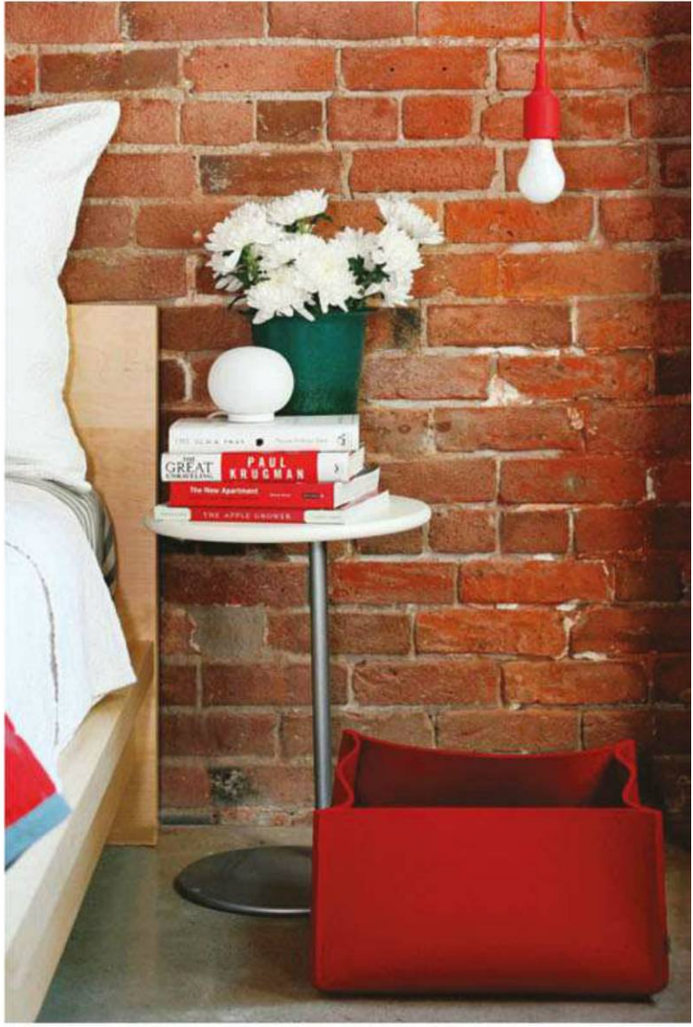
Then, a magical thing happened when Omer and his team constructed the courtyard. "Because three of the four glass walls become almost invisible when their doors are open, there seems to be a complete ambiguity between interior and exterior space," he says. On a sunny day, the space is flooded with a stream of light. During inclement weather, there is literally a rectangle of rain in the middle of the home, which a clever draining system whisks away.

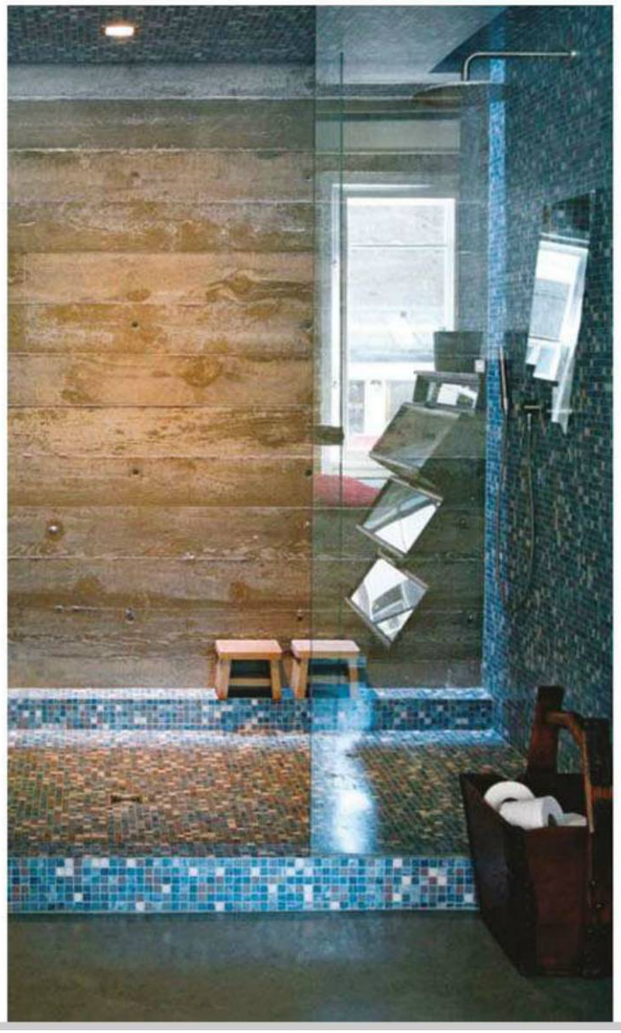
The courtyard has become the heart of the home, with every room having a distinct relationship to it. Even the brick-walled living room offers a glimpse of its beacon of light through the doorway, imparting a sense of mystery and temptation. "Through the living room, beyond the brick wall, you see a rectangle of light and it's a bit of a siren," Omer notes. "It draws you, like a secret beyond the walls."

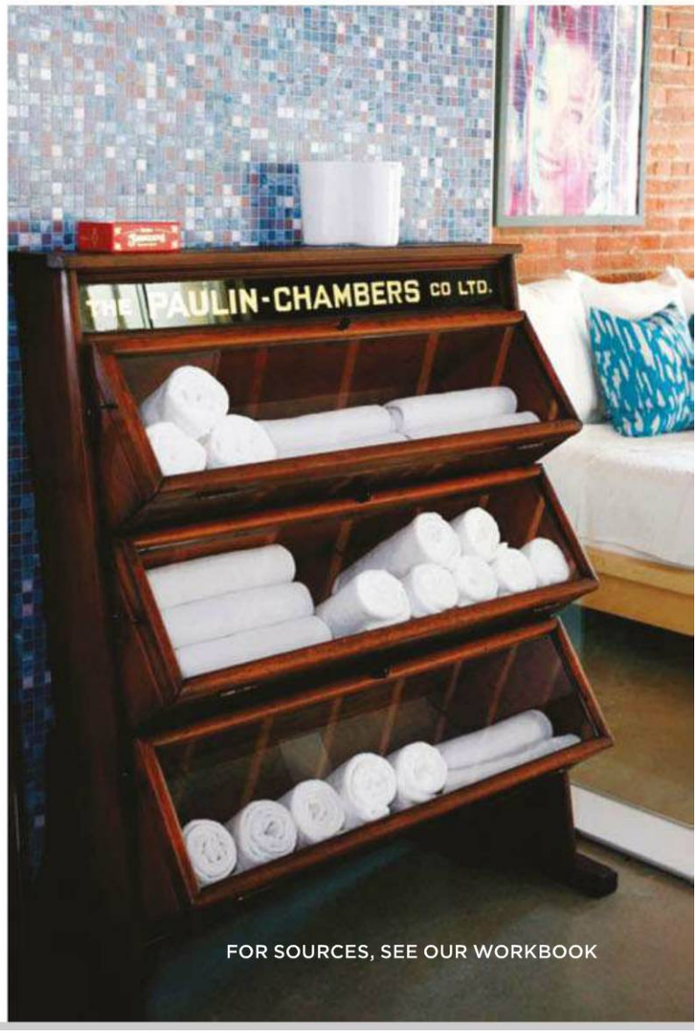
Those walls, original to the loft, were left deliberately raw. "We sandblasted the bricks but kept them rough," says Omer. Existing floors were given a fresh concrete topping with a new geothermal radiant heat system underneath for warmth.

"When you're working with an existing space that has a lot of character, the critical thing is to really set apart, in a very conscious way, the existing and the new," says Omer. In this case, the brick and wood were left exactly as they were. The new materials have a crisp, machined quality – a texture vastly different from the original fabric of the building, yet one that creates a seamless, robust environment.

As Omer intended, living among the cool collection of modern furnishings and artwork illuminates those distinctions, while joyfully filling the spaces in between.







ABOVE RIGHT The bedroom accessories maintain an industrial feel.

Felt **BOX,** Provide Home.

RIGHT "The master bath is a glass box, in the same language as the courtyard," says Omer. A sliver-like opening to the sky allows for a wonderful wash of light over the shower.

FIXTURES, Boffi.

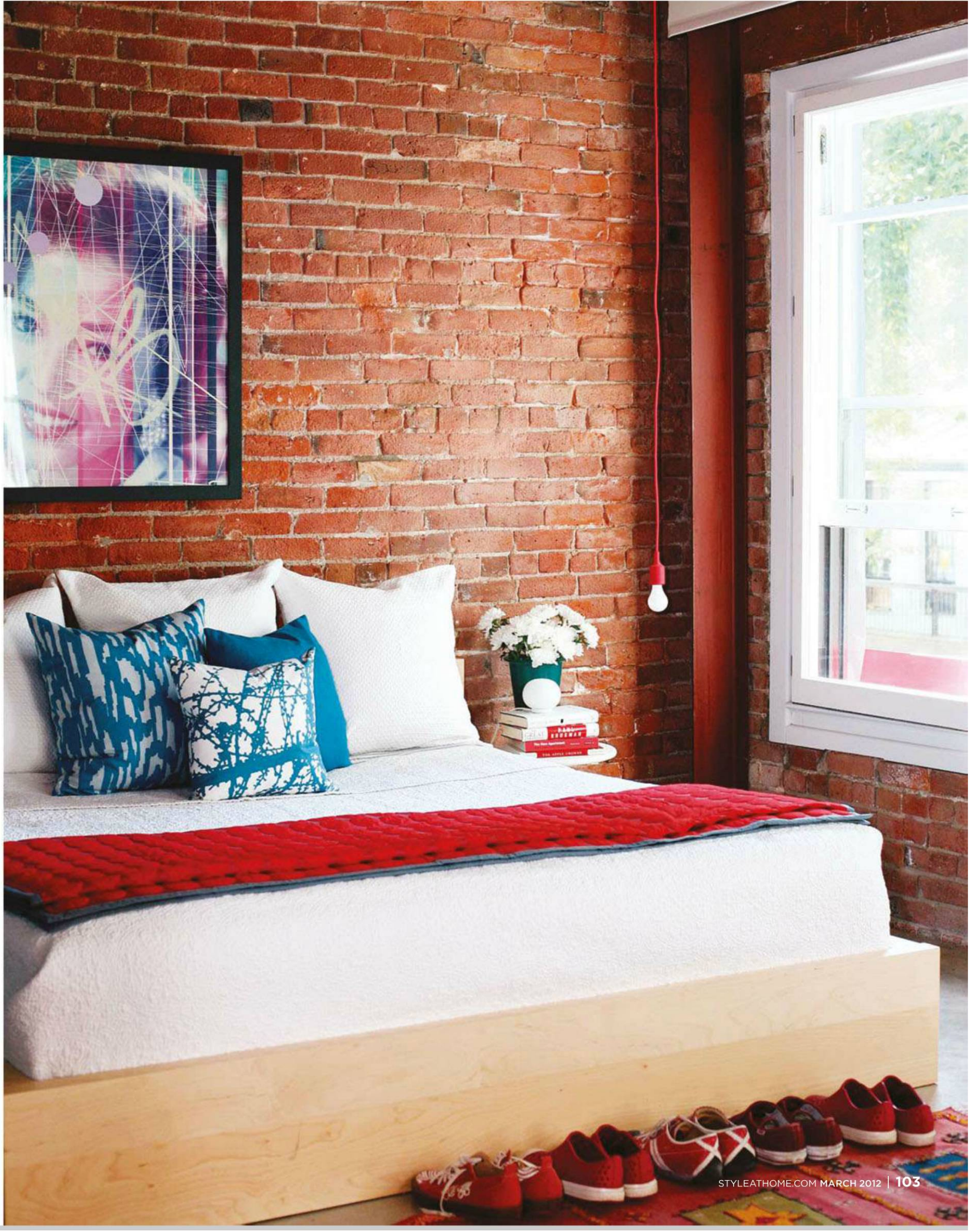
FAR RIGHT Rather than drawing from the existing monochrome bricks 'n' sticks palette, brightly coloured mosaic tiles in purple, blue and white add a pop of colour.

TILES, Bisazza.

OPPOSITE An inexpensive IKEA bed and funky artwork blend seamlessly into the functional space.

Malm **BED,** IKEA; **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW,** Vancouver Special.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



1 COLOUR CRUSH

Warm brassy oranges (and orangey brasses) shine against the cool pop of turquoise in the accompanying tray.

Blue lacquer **TRAY,** Absolutely; bronze **CONTAINER,** Angus & Company; custom glass **TABLETOP,** Adanac Glass.

A small home offers ample places for a new family to sit back and enjoy life's stages.

FAMILY FIRST

TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON

Take one look at this comfortably chic home, and you'd never guess the energetic chaos that went into putting it all together. After all, if you're a young couple transitioning from your first city condo into your first quaint neighbourhood home, this move is one of life's exciting milestones. But add a baby on the way and a photo shoot to prep for, and everything – from moving trucks teeming with furniture to dollies towering with tiles to strollers spilling with diapers – kicks into a happy high gear. Luckily, with a keen team of helpers, a talented eye for mastering small spaces and, let's face it, a sheer tenacity to get it done, this young family has their dream home to start this new stage in style!

DESIGN, TAMARA ROBBINS GRIFFITH

PAINT (throughout), Para Paints; **FIREPLACE,** Napoleon; **HEARTHSTONE,** Marble Trend; vintage glass **COFFEE TABLE,** ChairTableLamp; **SOFA,** Barrymore Furniture; **SOFA FABRIC,** Maxwell Fabrics; **CHAIR SLIPCOVERS,** Potato Skins Slipcovers; **SLIPCOVER FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; silk custom **DRAPERY, DRAPERY ROD,** inVU Drapery; natural woven **SHADE,** Levolor; Second Life **RUG,** blue **THROW,** Elte; yellow-print **CUSHION FABRIC,** Christopher Farr Cloth; blue **CUSHION FABRIC,** Soleil Bleu; velvet pink **CUSHION,** pink **SHELL,** Constantine; **MIRROR,** Jamie Young Company; **BASKET,** Bev's Handwoven Baskets; **SHELVES, BRACKETS,** IKEA.

2 ALL IN MODERATION

The key to balancing the size of this small nine-by-12-foot living room was restraint in colour, furniture and embellishments. Muted blues and yellows take a soft centre stage without overwhelming the space; the coffee table with rounded edges leaves more breathing room than a boxy, square shape would; and custom-designed drapery panels with horizontal banding increase the room's perceived width.

3 SIMPLE STORAGE

A sideboard with ample cabinets and drawers can handle overflow from a cramped kitchen. Chosen in sleek white to match the walls and dining chairs, this extra storage space doesn't come at the cost of a bulky piece that screams "look at me!"

Blue **BOWL,** Elte; **BOX,** L'Atelier; decorative **FINIAL,** ChairTableLamp; *Mineral Flow IX* **ARTWORK** by Andrew Rucklidge, Art Interiors.

4 GUESTS WELCOME

For a family that loves to entertain, it's fitting that the dining room is one of the largest rooms in the house. The heirloom table that the homeowner had refinished can comfortably seat six (with extra room for a highchair or two) while a sleek sideboard and a stacked bar cart sit at different ends of the space to accommodate guests' food and beverage needs.

Silk custom **DRAPERY,** inVU Drapery; natural woven **SHADE,** Levolor; wooden **DINING TABLE REFINISHING,** Elbers Antiques & Refinishing; Second Life **RUG,** Elte; **CHAIR REFINISHING & REUPHOLSTERY,** Cooper Bros.; **CHAIR FABRIC,** Joanne Fabrics; Treviso **CHANDELIER,** Norlite.

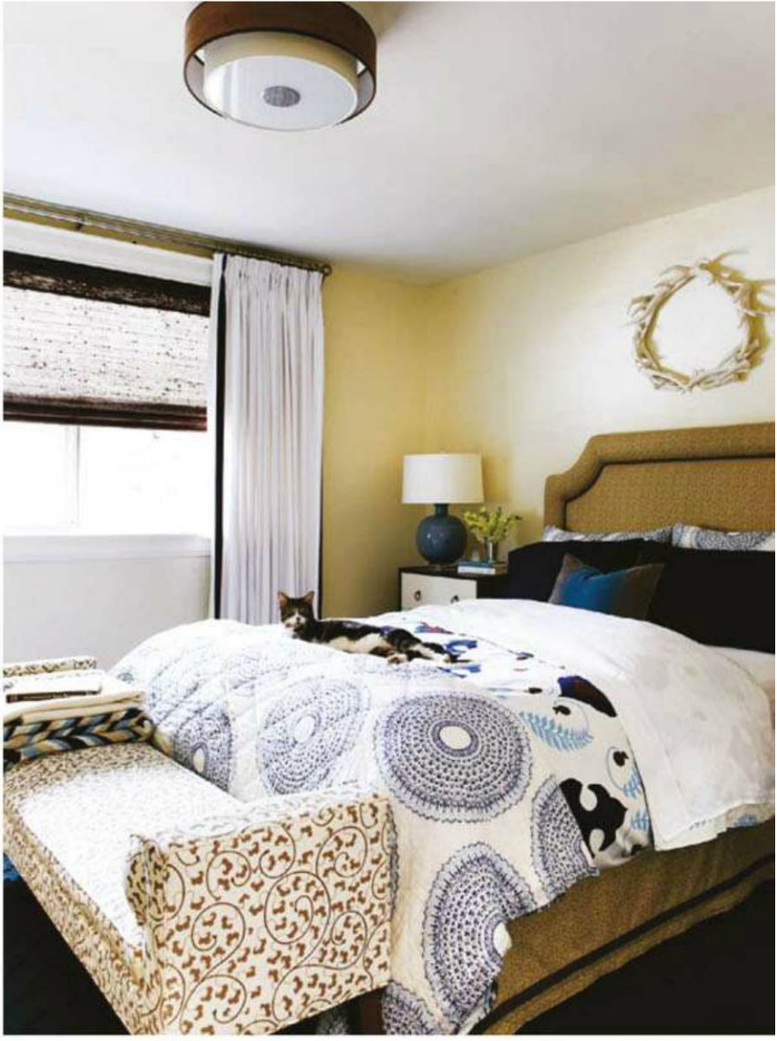
Dark floors help to ground a light, neutral palette.

Hand-scraped hickory hardwood FLOORING (throughout), Vintage Hardwood Flooring, vintageflooring.com.

5 BEDROOM UNITY

In the master bedroom, an eclectic mix of boho-chic elements are unified by a circle motif that repeats like the beat of a drum: see it in the table lamp and ceiling fixture, in the wreath and on the curves of the headboard, in the vine-like flourishes on the bench as well as in the intricate blue medallion print of the quilt.

Grasscloth **WALLPAPER,** Phillip Jeffries; **TABLE LAMP,** Mottega; **DUVET COVER, QUILT, SHAMS,** John Robshaw Textiles; **PILLOWCASES,** IKEA; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Union Lighting & Furnishings.



6 ALMOST BETTER THAN A WALK-IN

IKEA Pax Birkeland wardrobes were customized to fit flush from floor to ceiling almost the whole length of one wall in the master bedroom. Panelled detailing on the doors lends the room a structure and height that's repeated in the navy blue trim detail on the white drapery.

Pax Birkeland **WARDROBE SYSTEMS,** IKEA; **DRAPERY, DRAPERY ROD,** inVU Drapery; grosgrain **RIBBON** (trim on drapes), Masterstroke Canada; natural woven **SHADE,** Levolor.

7 PULLING RANK

It's easy to customize big-box storage systems with the simple addition of some unique knobs. Here, the hardware takes this white wardrobe from everyday to elegantly embellished.

Roger Thomas Quatrafoil **CABINET KNOB,** Rocky Mountain Hardware.

8 A CHEERFUL WELCOME

Instead of big, make it bold! In a dimunitive entryway it's difficult to make a strong statement that sets the stylish tone of the rest of the house. But a few choice details – like the tapered legs that seem to lightly lift the console, the sleek white stool that hides underneath, or the simple wall hook that stands in for a closet or coat rack – and fresh colours lend the entry a sunny and striking first impression.

Beach Retreat **ARTWORK** by Gabriella Collier, Art Interiors; **STOOL,** Decorum Decorative Finds; **BASEBOARDS** (throughout), Central Fairbank Lumber; **BOOTS,** Get Outside; **HOOK,** Urban Outfitters.

9 PRIMARY SCHOOL

Although the homeowners knew they were expecting a boy, they chose a colour palette – primary red, blue and yellow – and prints that aren't limited to what's typical (namely: trucks, trains and baby blue accents). The energy of the red star wallpaper is echoed in the high-contrast piping on the rocking chair, and the slats of the crib are repeated in the drum stool to the side. These streamlined details that don't go over the top amount to the perfect balance of colour, pattern and design for a baby boy to come home to.

Classic **CRIB,** Oeuf; Serendipity **WALLPAPER** in Red, Sister Parish Design; **CARPET TILES,** Flor; Cellular Cordless **SHADE,** Levolor; **CHAIR FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **CHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Re-Wrap Custom Upholstery.

10 PEEK-A-BOO

It's a subtle detail, but the yellow bumper pads add a hit of texture and interest.

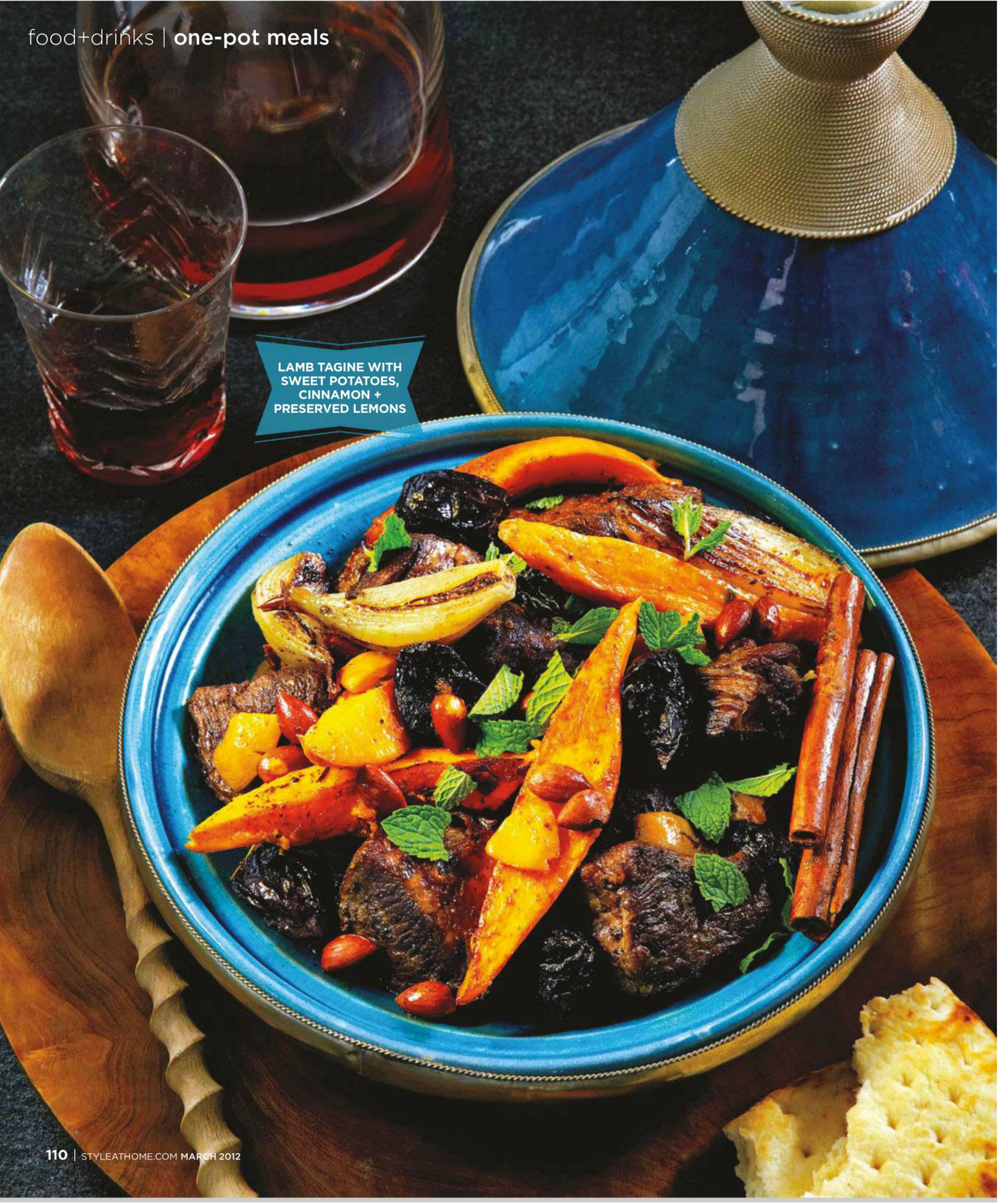
Blabla **PLUSH DOLL,** Giving Gifts; **CUSHION, BUMPER PAD, BEDDING,** Montague & Capulet.

11 CHANGE IN STYLE

This sleek modern cabinet not only corrals books, toys and diapers but it also does double duty as a changing table with a curved pad to keep baby safe.

Classic **DRESSER & HUTCH,** Oeuf; diaper **BIN,** Vipp; "N" **PRINT,** Ampersand Design Studio; *June Cloud* **ARTWORK** by David Lee, Art Interiors; lamb **PLUSH TOY,** Kata Golda.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



LAMB TAGINE WITH SWEET POTATOES, CINNAMON + PRESERVED LEMONS

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING
CLAIRE STUBBS

PHOTOGRAPHY
EDWARD POND

PROP STYLING
LARA MCGRAW

SHOW

One pan

Solve all your dinner dilemmas with these no-fuss, no-muss singular sensations with flavour to spare. The best part? They're each made in just one pot.

Hearty, satisfying meals for March's damp days are just the thing right now. But if slow cooker chili isn't enough to make your mouth water, we've got something that will. Our sophisticated take on one-pot meals features delicious, robust combinations of our favourite ingredients, from lamb, sweet potatoes and cinnamon to shrimp and feta with Israeli couscous.

And rest assured – we know the value of one-pot meals. Part of their appeal is that they go from prep to oven to table with little fuss and no muss, which helps make cleanup a breeze. So although we've made a point of keeping the flavours refined, we've also ensured that the methods and the means meet the criteria. Simple techniques and generous portions make these dishes as ideal for a crowded fete as they are for an everyday affair.

LAMB TAGINE WITH SWEET POTATOES, CINNAMON + PRESERVED LEMONS

SERVES 6

- 2 lbs boneless lamb shoulder or leg
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp each: ground cinnamon, cumin and coriander
- 2 cinnamon sticks (optional)
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 large shallots, peeled and quartered
- ⅓ cup whole roasted almonds
- 16 pitted prunes
- 2 tbsp chopped preserved lemons
- 2 small sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- ¼ cup chopped fresh mint

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Trim the lamb of fat and cut the meat into 3" large chunks. Season all over with salt and pepper. Heat the olive oil in a large, lidded casserole pan or tagine over medium heat on the stovetop. Sear the lamb in two batches, turning over until well browned, about 5 to 7 minutes. Return all lamb to the pot and sprinkle the spices overtop, turning to coat evenly. Add the cinnamon sticks and stock to the pan and bring to a boil. Cover the pan with the lid and bake in the oven for 1½ hours or until the lamb is very tender. Add the shallots, almonds, prunes and preserved lemons, stirring to combine. Place the sweet potatoes on top of the lamb. Put the lid back on the casserole and bake for another half hour. Remove lid and bake for half an hour more or until sweet potatoes are beginning to caramelize. Serve with fresh mint.

CHEESE CANNELLONI WITH SPINACH + ARTICHOKES

SERVES 6

- 1 5-oz pkg fresh baby spinach (about 6 cups)
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 2 lbs campari tomatoes, chopped
- ½ cup torn fresh basil leaves, divided
- 1 cup grated mozzarella or Friulano cheese
- 2 cups firm ricotta cheese
- 1 can whole artichoke hearts, rinsed and chopped
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 tsp finely chopped lemon zest
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh oregano
- ½ tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 6 fresh lasagna sheets
- ½ cup crème fraîche

Preheat the oven to 400°F. On the stovetop, heat a heavy-duty metal lasagna pan over medium heat. Add the spinach and keep turning it over with tongs until just wilted, about 2 minutes. Remove spinach from the pan and set aside to cool; squeeze out excess water and chop finely.

In the same pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and stir until fragrant but not brown, about 1 minute. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook over a gentle heat for about 25 minutes, until the tomatoes break apart and become saucy. Remove the pan from the heat, add half of the basil leaves and season to taste with salt and pepper. Scoop out ½ cup of sauce and reserve. Spread the remaining sauce evenly over the bottom of the pan.

In a large bowl, stir together the mozzarella, ricotta, artichokes, ½ cup Parmesan, spinach, zest, oregano, salt, pepper and remaining basil.

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TEX MEX CHICKEN AND RICE BAKE

Prep: 10 min Cook Time: 45 min Serves: 4

1 can	(10 oz/284 mL) CAMPBELL'S® Condensed Low Fat Cream of Chicken Soup
1 soup can	1% milk
¾ cup	uncooked regular long-grain white rice
1 ½ tsp	chili powder
1 ½ cups	mixture of red and green pepper strips, chopped onion
½ cup	frozen corn
4	boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 lb)
1/2 cup	shredded Tex Mex cheese (or Cheddar and Monterey Jack mixture)

1. *Mix soup, milk, rice and chili powder in shallow 2 qt (2 L) baking dish. Spread evenly with vegetables.*
2. *Top with chicken. Sprinkle chicken with cheese and additional chili powder, if desired. Cover.*
3. *Bake at 400°F (200°C) until chicken is cooked through and rice is tender – about 45 minutes. Remove cover and broil until cheese is golden and bubbly – about 3 minutes. Remove chicken and stir rice before serving.*

Per serving: 360 kcal, 8g fat, 570mg sodium, 42g carbohydrates, 3g fibre, 30g protein, 15% DV calcium

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Cut the lasagna sheets in half so that you have 12 pieces, each 5" x 6". Put about 3 tablespoons of filling along the bottom of the lasagna sheet and roll up to make a 1½" log. Place the cannelloni, seam side down, in the pan on top of the tomato sauce. Repeat with remaining lasagna sheets and filling, placing them close together in the pan.

Mix the crème fraîche with 2 tablespoons of water to loosen it; pour over the cannelloni, being sure to cover all the pasta. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan. Spoon the reserved tomato sauce over the cannelloni. Bake for 30 minutes, until the top is bubbling. Serve immediately.

BALSAMIC ROAST CHICKEN WITH CARAMELIZED PEARL ONIONS, OLIVES + TOMATOES

SERVES 4 TO 6

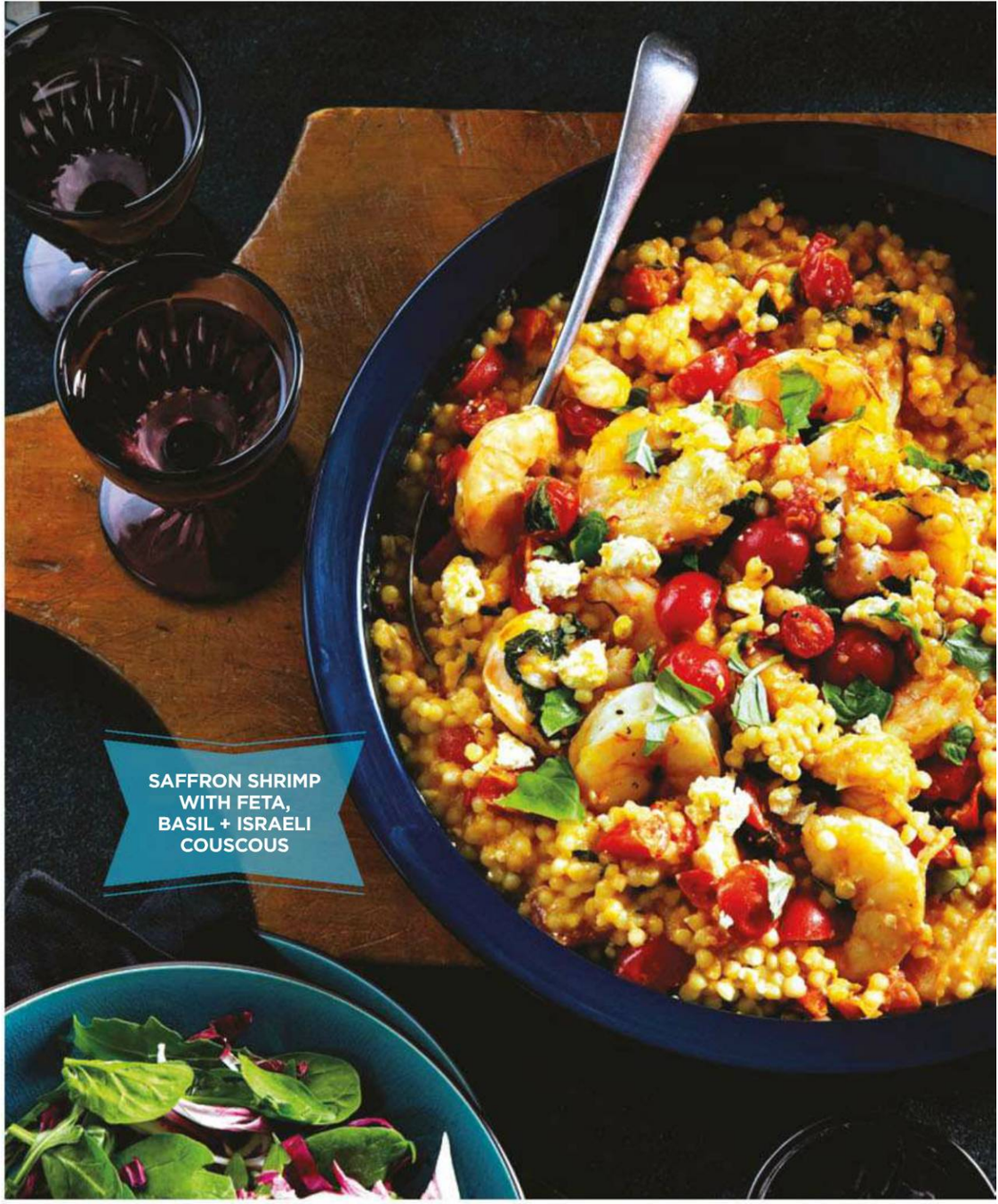
- 1 3-lb whole free-range organic chicken, cut into 8 parts
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 4-oz slab smoked bacon, cut into large cubes
- 1 cup pearl onions, peeled and halved
- 1 tbsp each: chopped fresh rosemary and thyme
- 2 tbsp aged balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup white wine
- ½ cup small green olives
- ½ pint grape tomatoes

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Season the chicken pieces all over with salt and pepper. Heat the olive oil over high heat in a large cast-iron casserole pan or Dutch oven and sear the chicken pieces in two batches, turning occasionally, until well browned all over. Remove the chicken from the pan. Turn the heat down to medium and add the bacon and pearl onions; cook until the onions are caramelized. Drain all but 1 tablespoon of the oil from the pan and return the chicken pieces. Add the herbs, vinegar and wine and bring to a boil. Add the olives and tomatoes and bake, covered, for 45 to 50 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through.

SAFFRON SHRIMP WITH FETA, BASIL + ISRAELI COUSCOUS

SERVES 4

- 1 cup Israeli couscous
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp minced fresh red finger chili
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp saffron threads
- ½ cup each: white wine and water



INSPIRED COMBINATIONS OF FULL-FLAVOURED INGREDIENTS FORM SAVOURY DISHES THAT ARE DESTINED TO BECOME EVERYDAY FAVOURITES.

- 1½ lbs raw jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ¼ cup torn fresh basil leaves
- 10 campari tomatoes, quartered
- 6 oz feta cheese, crumbled

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Soak the couscous in 3 cups of warm water for 10 minutes to soften and remove some of the starch. Drain and reserve.

On the stovetop, heat the olive oil in a large casserole dish over medium heat. Add the garlic and chili and sauté gently until fragrant but not brown, about 1 minute. Remove the pan from the heat and add in the lemon zest, salt, pepper, saffron, wine and water. Stir in the shrimp, basil, tomatoes, feta and couscous, tossing to coat.

Bake, covered, for 30 to 35 minutes or until the shrimp are pink and the juices are hot and bubbly, stirring once during cooking.

To simplify dinner (and dish duty) with more hearty, one-pot meals, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/ONEPOT.**

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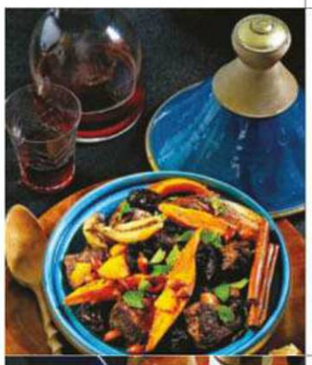
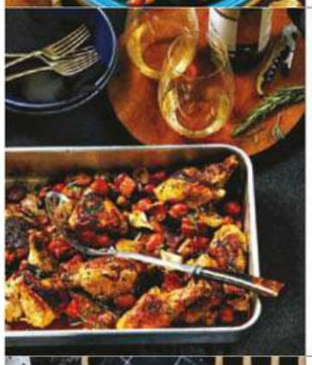
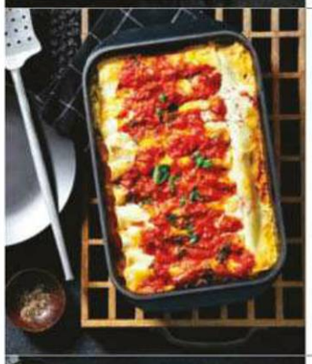
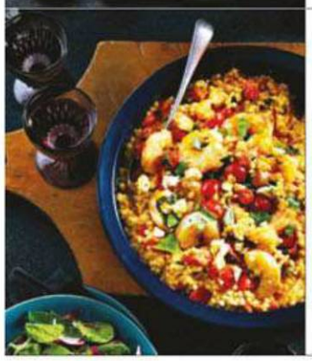
menu matchup

One pot to wash, one wineglass to rinse. But how to choose the best bottle? Wine and spirits expert Konrad Ejbich decodes each of our one-pot recipes for its clear and distinct flavour clues (herbs, spices and condiments) and discloses four wines that meet their match.

OUR RECIPES	KONRAD'S PICKS	PAIRINGS
		Pair our Lamb Tagine with Sweet Potatoes, Cinnamon + Preserved Lemons with **LINDEMAN'S BIN 50 SHIRAZ,** Australia, $12. Explosions of flavour from an intensely tasty dish like this Moroccan-style lamb tagine deserve an accompanying wine with equal bite. Shiraz is a flavourful grape, and Australia is *the* source for the strongest, densest and fruitiest shirazes ever made.
		Pair our Balsamic Roast Chicken with Caramelized Pearl Onions, Olives + Tomatoes with **TOMMASI IL SESTANTE RIPASSO VALPOLICELLA,** Italy, $19. In this savoury dish, the caramelized onions and balsamic reduction call for wines with implied sweetness. Olives call for something tweaked by the wood flavours that come with oak-aged wine, while tomatoes – even when sun-dried – play best with sharp wines. My first choice is a saucy Ripasso Valpolicella, the middle child between fruity Valpolicella and powerful Amarone.
		Pair our Cheese Cannelloni with Spinach + Artichokes with **ALVAR SÉMILLON SAUVIGNON BLANC,** Ontario, $13. Most Sauvignon Blancs come with herbaceous flavours and grating acidity. They're fine for the spinach and cherry tomato components on their own, but they fall short next to the richness of this cheesy pasta dish. Mix in some full-bodied Sémillon and the new blend yields a balanced wine of substance and finesse, perfect for the hedonistic task ahead.
		Pair our Saffron Shrimp with Feta, Basil + Israeli Couscous with **SEE YA LATER RANCH PINOT GRIS,** British Columbia, $19. Here's a classic study in flamboyant subtlety. The sweetness of shrimp, saffron and basil plays with the sharpness of lemon and tomato and softens the spicy undertones of garlic, chili and pepper. These are the same flavour subtleties of balanced sweetness and acidity with a hint of spice found in fine Pinot Gris wines grown in the cooler climates of northern France and western Canada.

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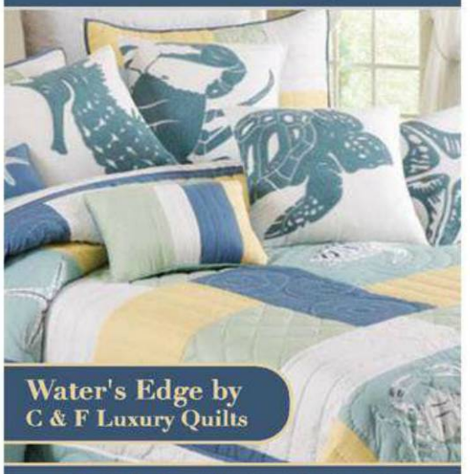

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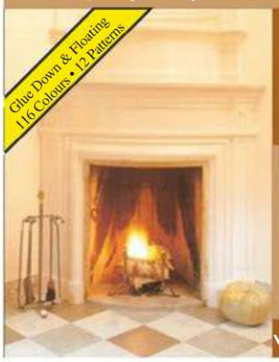

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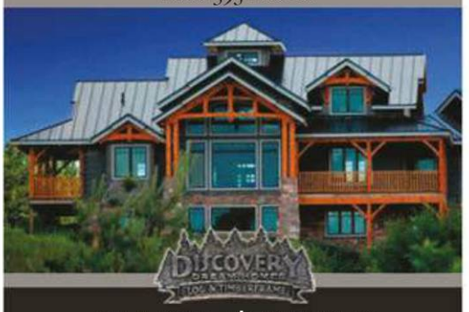

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hard at work and play

get the look FROM PAGE 66

modern quarters

White walls and furnishings read contemporary, but the cowhide rug and orange accents warm up this chic home office.

Leather Ripple **OFFICE CHAIR** in Ivory, $349, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Cowhide **RUG,** $765, Elte, elte.com.

Forsa **WORK LAMP,** $25, IKEA, ikea.ca.

Anything **STAPLER** in Orange, $40 US, See Jane Work, seejanework.com.

glam boudoir

This spare room serves two purposes: dressing room and office. The look is soft and feminine and exudes 1930s glamour.

Umbra Tubo **COUNTERTOP ORGANIZER,** $13 US, The Container Store, containerstore.com.

Large Tudor City Debra **PLANNER,** $195 US, Kate Spade, katespade.com.

Small Provence Society **PERFUME BOTTLE,** $18 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Large Wish Tree **JEWELLERY HOLDER,** $98 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

do-it-yourself zone

Bright colours and playful patterns define this fresh, fun office for a couple of intrepid DIYers. A mix of open and closed storage keeps the space neat and tidy.

Doodle **CALENDAR** in Duck Egg Blue, from $42, Bold & Noble, boldandnoble.com.

Synchronicity Stockholm **MAGAZINE FILES,** $11 US each, The Container Store, containerstore.com.

Medium Mix 'N Match **STORAGE BIN,** $36, PBteen, pbteen.com.

craft central

A neutral palette allows the kids' colourful artwork to really pop. The 14-foot-long workstation gives each child their own zone, which lets creativity flow.

Natural Botanical **PAINT SET,** $24 US, Glob, globiton.com.

Trunki **TRAVEL CASE** in Red, $50, Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.

Chalk **STORAGE TABLE** with two stools, $120, Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.

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Instant non-irritating relief for dry, itchy skin
100% NATURAL MOISTURIZERS
Fast Absorbing
Non Greasy
St. Ives
FRESH. BETTER. NATURALLY.™
Skin Renewing
BODY LOTION
Collagen Elastin
Proven to visibly improve skin's elasticity for younger looking skin
100% NATURAL MOISTURIZERS
Fast Absorbing
Non Greasy
St. Ives
FRESH. BETTER. NATURALLY.™
Daily Hydrating
BODY LOTION
Vitamin E
Protects against dryness
Visibly improves skin's health
100% NATURAL MOISTURIZERS
Fast Absorbing
Non Greasy
St. Ives
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BODY LOTION
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Clinically proven to keep skin moisturized all day
Light, Hypo-Allergenic Fragrance
100% NATURAL MOISTURIZERS
Fast Absorbing
Non Greasy
*vs. untreated dry skin.
†Skin Renewing, Daily Hydrating, and Intensive Relief have been upgraded with new and improved formulas and fragrances.

style news

mini-trend **FROM PAGE 31**

Bring the sweetness of French desserts into your home (less the calories) with these luxurious scented candles from Ladurée, the iconic French patisserie best known for its heavenly macarons. If you aren't counting calories, take a stab at their collection of sweet and savoury recipes (sold separately), which come deliciously packaged.

Ladurée: The Savory Recipes **BOOK,** $44, Chapters Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Ladurée perfumed **CANDLE,** $69, The Cross Decor & Design, thecross-design.com.

high or low

behind the scenes **FROM PAGE 48**

We spoke to Andrea McCrindle, the stylist behind the chic high and low office spaces, which were shot in her own Toronto dining room.

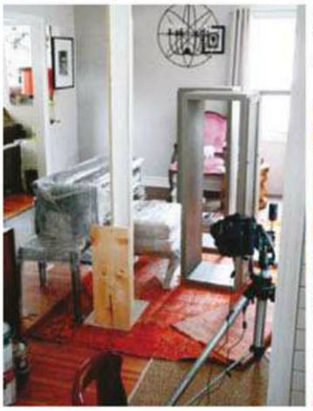
PREP DAYS: 5 to 7

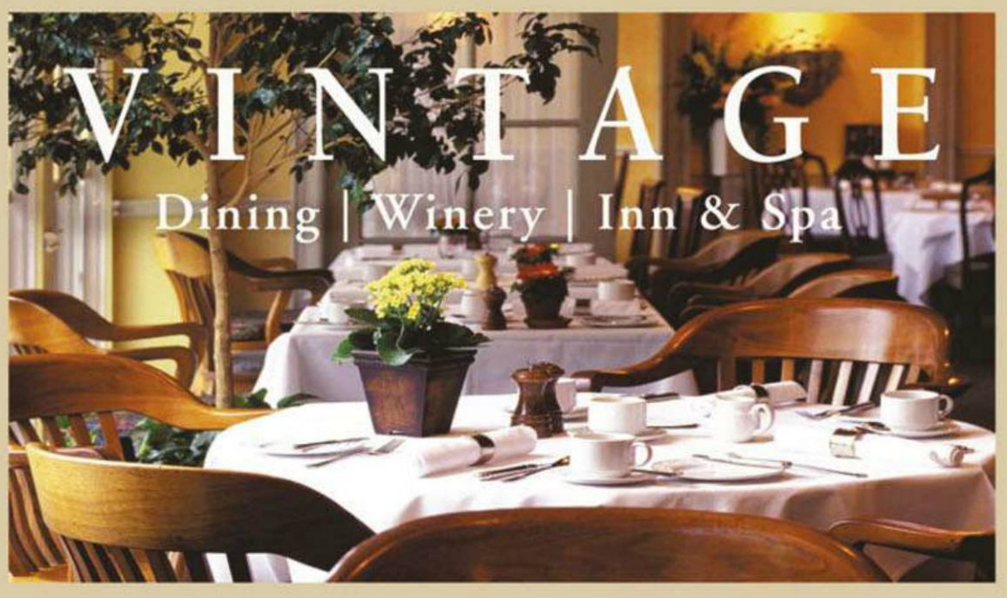
HOURS TO SHOOT: 5 (for the room sets), plus another day for the details

PEOPLE ON SET: 3

PROPS: 34

SHOOTING IN YOUR OWN HOME: "As you can see, there's not much room to move. Even though we were in a real house, we had to build a small set wall for the foreground to block out the living room!"





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PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BOOK, CANDLE)

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philadelphia

The City of Brotherly Love has more to offer than just its impressive historical pedigree. It's a vibrant hot spot for arts (more murals and outdoor sculptures than any other U.S. city), culture (Barnes Foundation, anyone? Rodin Museum, perhaps?) and, of course, shopping (exit through the gift shop!).

SHOP TERRAIN AT STYER'S

Quite possibly the most beautiful store in the world, Terrain offers more than amazing garden implements, beauty products, furniture and decorative accessories. It also boasts a nursery, a café, and on-site classes and events. Located in Brandywine Valley, about an hour outside of the city, it's well worth the drive to be amazed and inspired.

914 Baltimore Pike, Glen Mills, shopterrain.com.

EAT & DRINK BAR2L

If you're in the mood for sky-high views along with your meal, check out this 37th-floor lounge, part of chef Daniel Stern's restaurant R2L in the Rittenhouse Square district. Enjoy your late-night cocktail with quick bites like shrimp tempura or burgers.

50 S. 16th St., r2lrestaurant.com.

SHOP PORTFOLIO AT THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY

Tons of museums mean tons of gift shops, and Portfolio is one of the best. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is the country's first art museum, and its all-American collection is reflected in the shop's unique wares.

128 N. Broad St., pafa.org/shop/31.

STAY LE MÉRIDIEN PHILADELPHIA

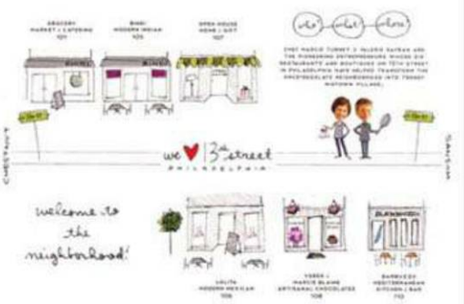
Once a YMCA, the building that houses this conveniently located hotel is full of decorative and architectural charm, from its atrium to its classic woodwork and comfy lounge.

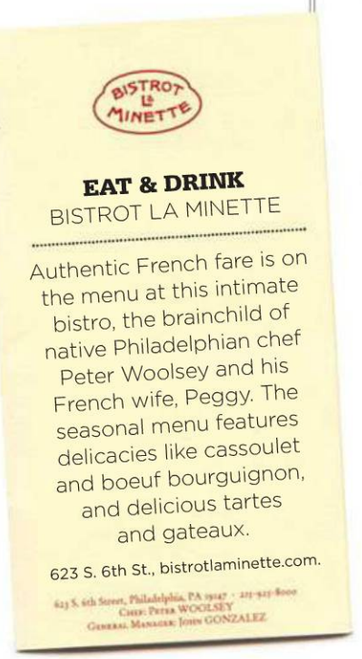
1421 Arch St., lemeridien.com/philadelphia.

EAT & SHOP 13TH STREET

A delectable grouping of delights – from homewares, flowers and paper goods to Mexican food and artisanal chocolates – is aligned along this newly trendy block, courtesy of entrepreneurs chef Marcie Turney and Valerie Safran.

barbuzzo.com.




BISTROT LA MINETTE
EAT & DRINK
BISTROT LA MINETTE
Authentic French fare is on the menu at this intimate bistro, the brainchild of native Philadelphian chef Peter Woolsey and his French wife, Peggy. The seasonal menu features delicacies like cassoulet and boeuf bourguignon, and delicious tartes and gateaux.
623 S. 6th St., bistrotlaminette.com.

DO
PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Feel like springtime just can't come fast enough? A stroll through the extravaganza of blooms and beauty at the Philadelphia International Flower Show (March 4 to 11) offers a tropical paradise. This year's theme is Hawaii: Islands of Aloha, so watch for orchids, palm trees, a 25-foot-high waterfall and performances to stir the senses.

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch sts, theflowershow.com.

TEXT, SUZANNE MOUTIS; ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE DESROCHERS

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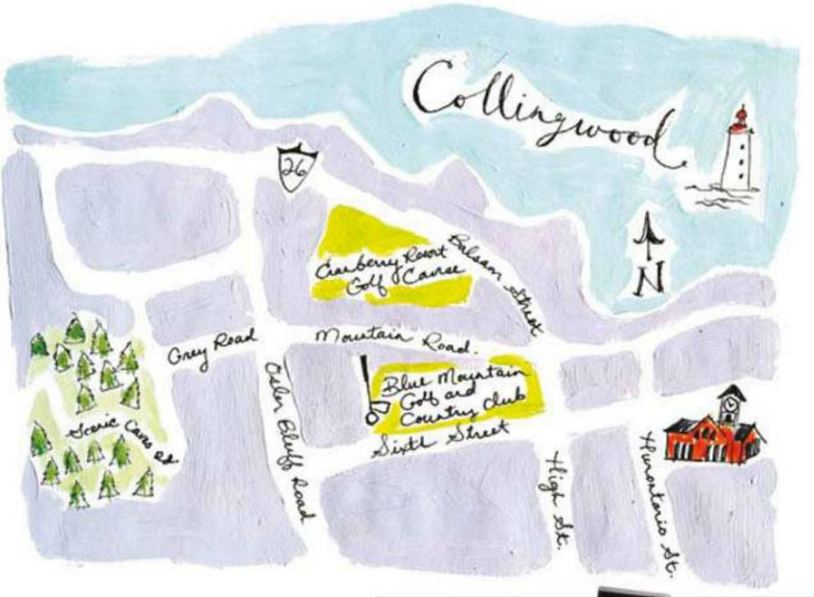
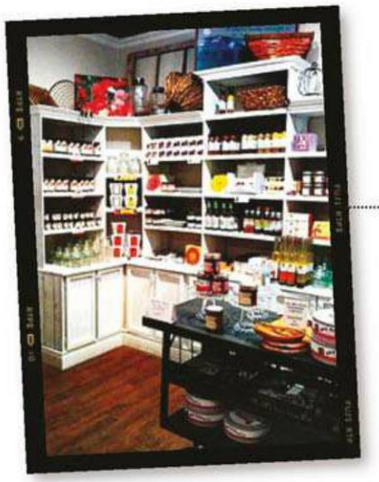
collingwood, ont.

Beyond the main attraction that is Blue Mountain sits a happening downtown area on the cusp of Georgian Bay. This old shipbuilding town is now bustling with cool things to see and do all year-round.





SHOP AT HOME INTERIORS

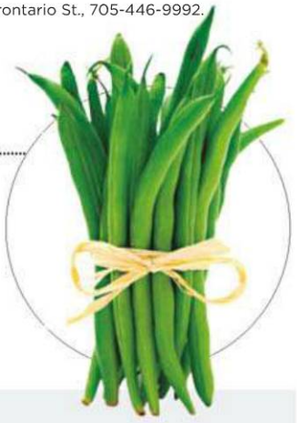
This impressively sized home-decor haven is filled with a selection of furniture and accessories that cleverly reflects both the rustic cottage style of the locals and the modern edge of urban visitors. If you have an exact size or finish in mind, ask – many of the pieces can be customized. And don't miss the back room, which is solely devoted to gourmet treats.

65 Hurontario St., 705-446-9992.

EAT & DRINK PURE

An unexpected find among the mom-and-pop diners and chain restos, Pure is equipped with an organic juice, smoothie and espresso bar and offers a full-course raw menu that's prepared fresh daily from local, organic foods.

10 Keith Ave., purefoodbar.com.



DO SCANDINAVE SPA

Plan to spend a few hours relaxing amid 25 acres of forest with views of the Niagara Escarpment. The spa features outdoor hot baths, Nordic plunge pools, a Finnish sauna, a eucalyptus steam room and indoor quiet rooms. It may become your only reason to visit Collingwood!

152 Grey Rd. 21, scandinaveblue.com.

SHOP
BLUE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS CENTRE

In this carefully restored century-old building, you'll find a large, bright gallery with a rotating display of interesting works from local artists – including paintings, photography, sculpture and pottery – at affordable prices.

163 Hurontario St., bmfa.on.ca.

EAT & DRINK
ESPRESSO POST

Local art on the walls, distressed hardwood floors and chalkboard signs create old-world charm in this quaint coffee shop. Steaming with hot-drink options ready to be made by one of the café's award-winning baristas and brimming with fresh rustic pastries and cakes, owners Mark and Christene Krause sure know that the way to win our hearts is through our stomachs!

139 Hurontario St., espressopost.com.

DO SCENIC CAVES NATURE ADVENTURES

Skip the busy ski slopes and try your feet at some cross-country skiing or snowshoeing on the well-groomed escarpment trails at the Scenic Caves. Fresh air, spectacular views and the tranquility of a 200-year-old forest rich with wildlife promise to rejuvenate.

260/280 Scenic Caves Rd., sceniccaves.com.

TEXT, CATHERINE THERRIEN; ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE DESROCHERS; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (SALT PIG)

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Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we've chosen this stately chic bench, which appears in designer Stacey Cohen's Toronto condo (see "Out of the Blue," page 92). Here's what you need to know about it.

last LOOK

Oly Hilary **BENCH,** $2,143, Cocoon Furnishings, cocoonfurnishings.ca.

WHY WE LOVE IT

This is a piece that's as memorable as it is versatile. It definitely holds its own as a focal point and, although it appears to have a bold personality, the Hilary bench plays well with others.

WHY IT WORKS

The clean, straight lines of this bench appeal to the modernist, while the nailhead trim and gold finish on the frame call to the traditionalist. The zebra-printed hide's neutral quality is loved by both camps.

WHERE TO USE IT

Because of its modest size (measuring in at 26" x 16" x 19"), this bench is compact enough to fit comfortably under a console table yet big enough to sit at the foot of a bed without feeling dwarfed.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, ANGUS FERGUSSON (INTERIOR)

For more fabulous zebra-print decor ideas, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/ZEBRA.**

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